

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES 28 JANUARY 2019 LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

**Councillors Present:** Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Angus Hardie, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary & Minute Taker), Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

**Elected Representatives:** Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Adam McVey.

**In attendance:** PC Margo Darling, PC Lauren Mitchell. 2 members of the public.

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies, CC Membership**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Councillor Gordon Munro, Deidre Brock MP, Ben Macpherson MSP.

Two Community Councillors have resigned: Jacqueline Rogers, due to work pressures in her new job as Head Teacher, and Adrian Graham, due to poor health. Chair has written to both to thank them most sincerely for their service and to wish them well.

#### **2. Police Report from PC Margo Darling, PC Lauren Mitchell**

Police are grateful to the community at large for their concern and cooperation in the search for the missing Mr. Scott, which had ended sadly.

*Successful* operations reported with regard to one day policing checks on cars for MOT, insurance, tax, seatbelts, & licence violations; and also a drugs and a firearm arrest at Cables Wynd.

*Bike Theft* – Operation Parameter had resulted in recovery of arrest and charging of one man over 60 stolen bikes, many now returned to owners. A further police operation on bikes is taking place.

It is important to report all bike thefts. Many bikes are recovered but unclaimed. Most bikes are stolen from the street bike racks or from stairs, mainly due to insufficient chains / locks and/or poor door security.

*Just Eat Bikes* - bike station on the Links was badly vandalised, bikes stolen and damaged. Not all bikes found yet as their GPS fails when battery runs down. The entire bike station has now been removed. It is a dark area and CCTV on old Leith Academy building doesn't cover this spot. John Tibbitt had observed Leith Academy pupils here and on Lochend Road trying to damage the bike / racks earlier in the month and suggested the school should be contacted about this behaviour by pupils. Leith Links is not the only place these bikes have been vandalised - similar problems at Victoria Park. Now looking for suggestions for alternative sites.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting, on Monday 26 November 2018 and Matters Arising**

Proposed by Michael Traill; seconded by Gail Clapton. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

#### **Matters Arising and Outstanding actions**

*Fire-damaged building at the bowling green:* Councillor Booth reported that CEC is still waiting for a report to come to Finance Committee on this, and has been discussing possible lease to community fitness charity Projekt 42 (but this is not yet fixed, and approaches from other bodies would be considered).

*Obstructive parking around St. Mary's school:* it is taking CEC a long time to implement the policy decision of closing off the streets immediately around the school are to be closed off at school drop-off times, because a TRO has to be obtained for this which can take up to a year. Should be done by November 2019.

*Bus stop markings:* Two bus stops have not yet been properly marked. One on the west side of Links Gardens, nearest the traffic lights at Restalrig Road, one outside Great Michael House on Links Place.

**ACTION: Cllr Booth to clarify what's happening with these.**

### **4. Campervans and Caravans on the Links – no new developments**

### **5. Local Democracy matters**

#### ***Community Planning***

John and Jim had attended a North East Locality meeting, discussing the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership, and the role of CCs in new structures. Felt that one 'fixed' representative for all the CCs was wrong, as no one person could be up to date with all the local issues. 2 places should be held for Councillors, but these could be 'fluid' and taken up by different Councillors, depending on the agenda items, and interests and priorities of different CCs. This is a good reason for all the CCs in NE Locality to keep meeting and sharing views and information.

Councillor McVey announced that EACC will be on the Board of the Edinburgh Partnership.

Community Councils will fit in at a new 'Neighbourhood Network' & Locality Planning level - supposedly to be up and running by 1st April.

John, now Vice-Chair of EACC, is committed to trying to get that organisation to be more proactive, in line with the priorities of local CCs and communities.

#### ***Democracy Matters***

Angus had submitted a draft response on behalf of LLCC, to the consultation which closed at the end of November 2018.

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### ***CCs together***

A joint meeting of CCs in the NE Locality was held on 10 January, organised and hosted by Michael Traill in Leith Community Centre. This was well attended by 15 people, from 4/7 NE Locality CCs, with apologies from the others who just couldn't make it. The discussions were agreed as productive in informing responses to the CC Governance review survey, and Informal networking was welcomed by all. Future get-togethers will be arranged .

### **6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee -**

#### ***Leith Links Playpark upgrade***

Chair has received an update from Parks. Tenders have been received and are currently being read and assessed – a contract will be awarded imminently and hopefully work will start in March / April.

#### ***Applications for use of the Links for events***

Things have moved on re Ladyboys/La Clique. CEC officials took a decision during the festive break period that this event could take place in Pilrig Park, without consulting LCCC or the Friends of Pilrig Park. A vigorous protest is now being mounted by the local community and elected representatives, as Pilrig Park is even less suitable than Leith Links, for many of the same reasons, only more so. Councillor Booth pointed out that CEC officials cannot take this decision on their own as a 31 day park let is not within policy (policy is 15 days max ).

#### ***Parklife Project***

Chair and David had attended a meeting about Big Lottery funded project by Edinburgh University and CEC Parks Dept. to install a model owl in premier parks including Leith Links, which can monitor park 'life', if park users can be encouraged to interact with it, via an App.

**ACTION: Chair will invite a speaker from this project to a future LLCC meeting, perhaps April for further information and discussion.**

Michael suggested a competition for local children to 'name the owl' for Leith Links (rather than just adopting its current name 'Alfred').

**ACTIN: Michael will explore possibilities.**

**ACTION: Michael, Gail & Sally still committed to drafting a set of FAQs for LLCC website on how to find out / complain about the Links, as this is currently confusing for people (no central contact point). Difficulty finding time to carry this out...**

### **7. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee**

#### ***New local developments***

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*89 Constitution St:* Applicants for Change of Use into flats have withdrawn application for the moment, in the light of objections.

*Johns Place/ Lane / 111-115 Constitution Street (Lattos garage)* – there are three different applications in, confusingly all with different timescales though they are all very much linked, for partial demolition of a listed building, change of use, demolition of garage and redevelopment as 49 flats and one commercial unit. Objections have gone in re validity of application. Andrew is trying to sort out with Planning Dept. the details and timescales on these applications, which should really all be 'seen' together, and will submit a response from LLCC.

*Steads Place* – LLCC (Sally) will speak alongside other Leith CCs and community groups, to object to demolition and planning application up before CEC Planning Committee on 31st January.

*Land east of 139 Leith Walk* – a new Proposal of Application Notification (PAN) has been submitted for this large site – flats, a hotel, and student accommodation.

### ***Licensing – CC voice***

We were told that the CEC Licensing Board would now notify Community Councils of alcohol licensing applications, but there is no sign of any such notifications so far.

### ***Trams – CCTT update***

The completed full Business Case for the trams goes before the Council shortly. The community is concerned that issues currently somewhat sidelined as Supplementary Issues' are things that could make all the difference to the community, e.g. cycleways and parking etc. Councillor Booth recognised that there were issues of communication with the community eg. Updating the website, that needed to improve.

### ***Buses***

EBUG is responding to a number of current consultations on transport and city planning, and has a 'public face' via Twitter @edinbug .

### ***Common Good Register***

Angus had responded to a CEC consultation on this (now closed), on behalf of LLCC. He noted that the information that CEC holds about Leith is apparently very broad, not to say 'sketchy'. This is worrying given past problems of CEC selling off property that did not belong to them, but to Common Good. Perhaps Leith should start to catalogue its own 'common good' assets, to protect them for the future?

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### **Council Budget**

There was a short discussion about Council Budget and severe cuts coming (£41million) this year and again next year. There is anxiety about cuts to vital services provided both by council and by projects such as Pilrig Community Health Project, which will badly affect already vulnerable people.

### **8. Seafield Sewage**

LLRA had received a communication from CEC listing only a very few complaints about Seafield over the past year. But there have been many more than that number coming in via the LLCC web form, which indicates that CEC may not have been counting those as complaints.

**ACTION: Chair will count the list the complaints received via LLCC web form and contact CEC to clarify.**

### **9. Participatory Budgeting – Update**

Leith Chooses has made a short video to explain the new voting system, can be viewed on website. Deadline has just passed, and a good number of project applications are in, and currently being evaluated for eligibility. Voting Day is 23rd February, Sally asked for volunteers for the voting day, and a number of Community Councillors put their names forward.

### **10. Any Other Business**

A local resident had asked about plans for a Controlled Parking Zone in the area. Councillor Booth said that CEC Transport Committee wants to take a strategic, evidence-based approach, plus consultation and will report later, so better to wait for discussion of this issue, e.g. LLCC possibly calling a public meeting / debate.

Councillor Booth announced that Councillor Marion Donaldson (Labour, Leith Walk Ward) had just resigned, and there would be a by-election in April. Chair spoke for all LLCC members in expressing thanks to Marion Donaldson for her hard work in the community, and wishing her well.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

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**Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 25 February 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate.**

**PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30**