

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

25 FEBRUARY 2019
LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

Councillors Present: Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton (Treasurer), David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Gordon Munro, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: PC Margo Darling, Police Scotland, Harald Tobermann (Vice-Chair, Leith Central CC)

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome Chair (John Tibbitt) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Chas. Booth, Ben McPherson MSP, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Angus Hardie, Chrissie Reid, Eileen Simpson.

Community Council Membership and Election issues to be dealt with under Agenda Item 6

2. Police Report by PC Margo Darling

Rough Sleepers Reports – Police busy with early morning patrols, checking on people and advising re accommodation and services etc. Police were happy to attend Leith Chooses event as they learned there of new projects and services that could help rough sleepers.

Successful Police / community engagement with PoLH elderly, and women's Action Group.

Fires at the Tor and Four in Hand pubs are being treated as arson.

Operation Contrition – successful high vis operation at Cables Wynd House and environs resulted in successful arrests related to crack cocaine, and persons wanted for shoplifting, assaults etc.

Street Prostitutes –these currently seem much less in evidence around the Links. Police are trying hard to crack down on drugs and keep the women out of the criminal justice system. One well known woman is thought to have moved away. Cllr Munro pointed out pickups are done online or by mobile phone these days.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 28 January 2019

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

4. Bus stops and traffic / parking on the Links. Bus stops have still not been marked. Councillors will chase up. Caravans and camper vans are creeping back on to Links Gardens & Claremont Park.

5. Parks and Green Spaces Committee David Igoe agreed to act as the new lead/link person for this committee meanwhile, though unable to undertake much new activity currently.

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Just Eat Bikes

Following the vandalism at Leith Links, there was discussion about a better location, locally. Leith WonderWorld (but this is private land), Port of Leith pub and Queen Charlotte Street Police station were suggested.

ACTION: Michael Traill will set up a website and Facebook form for suggestions from the public.

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

A contractor has now been appointed, equipment is being ordered, and the work should hopefully be completed for summer. Darren Ryan, CEC, will update with more details at the forthcoming Neighbourhood Partnership meeting.

Applications for use of Links for events, Consultation procedures

The Ladyboys/La Clique Fringe show site is now back at Fountainbridge. Leith Central CC was concerned that it was not consulted before Council officials' decision to use Pilrig Park.

ACTION: Secretary will email CEC in support of Leith Central CC to express our dissatisfaction with the process.

A 5K run starting at St Mary's PS is being planned, and may well become a repeat event. It should have provision for first aid, support for slower runners, etc., as Parkrun does. Parking may be an issue.

ACTION: David Igoe will contact the organisers to follow up on the details of this, e.g. is it affiliated to Parkrun? What parking and toilet and support provisions are being made?

Parklife Meeting, 'Alfred?' the Owl etc.

Some members of the public may see it as a surveillance device, while others think it is good for the park. There was concern about the suggestion that donations could be sought.

ACTION: Michael will trawl for dates and set up a public meeting / workshop session, asap in April, to inform locals.

6. Local Democracy & CC governance

Community Council membership, 2019 election

Last year, 17 candidates put themselves forward for the 12 positions on LLCC, largely thanks to the hard work of Community Councillors who designed, printed and distributed 5,000 leaflets to local homes, and held a public meeting, to raise awareness. Agreed to repeat leafletting this summer. Harald Tobermann suggested Leith Central CC might do the same. Sally pointed out that although CEC run the actual election event, at the last election in 2016 they did not provide advertising,

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signage, information about the candidates or indeed any 'people- friendly' steps at all to help voters – if we wish these, they will presumably have to be provided by LLCC.

ACTION: Michael will lead, and will start making an election campaign plan.

ACTION: Sally will write to the other 2 Leith Community Councils about possible collaboration. Leaflets must be ready by June.

Feedback from EACC and further consultation on the review of community councils scheme

John reported back from the 21 February EACC meeting, where there was much discussion about the current review of community councils, and agreement that proposed changes to code of conduct, a complaints procedure, and engagement officers could all be worthwhile if not too heavy handed. It was felt that EACC should be represented on the Edinburgh Partnership Board. John had pressed EACC to consider how it could better represent all CCs.

ACTION: Michael will organise a meeting of NE Locality CCs before the end of March, to address the next stage of Consultation on CC governance. Kay agreed to take Minutes.

Abolition of Neighbourhood Partnerships and Locality Committee; New Structure?

In the light of abolition of both layers of local democracy with nothing so far to replace them, Community Councils are keen to ensure that they still have a strong collective voice. Councillor McVey assured the meeting that although not yet in place, it is intended that the new Locality Partnerships and Neighbourhood Networks will be more effective than the previous structure, as they can hopefully be more flexible and strategic.

7. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

Planning applications

There are several current applications for Constitution Street. Objections submitted to the Latto's Garage plans have focused on excess density and the lack of affordable housing. The deadline for objections to the latest application re No. 121 (the old Suruchi restaurant) is Friday 1 March. The change of use application is unconvincing – it looks much more like a 'party flat' than a family home. The application for a 2-storey extension at rear of 2-3 Hermitage Place (Merith House Hotel) raises concerns about over-concentration of properties providing short term accommodation in this area and the monopoly by a single provider. What is saturation level?

ACTION: Andrew will write to Cllr Campbell, Convenor of Housing & Economy Committee, expressing concern about the issue of over-provision of short term accommodation in Leith Links area.

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Building of the proposed 'boutique hotel' at 130 Constitution Street seems to be finally getting started.

PAN – land east of 139 Leith Walk: 22 & 23 April

The obligatory developers' consultation is due to take place only one day before the developer may submit a planning application. In order to show good faith, the developer has extended the consultation times, and has reassured that no rapid application is pending. Save Leith Walk campaign and all three Community Councils will be watching this carefully. Developers pay lip service to the requirement to consult communities, but do they actually listen to and/or act on the community's wishes?

Trams – CCTT update

Decision will be made on the Trams Business Plan at the forthcoming meeting of the Transport Committee. If approved, it then goes to the vote at the next full Council meeting that takes place shortly afterwards. The Leith CCs continue to broadly support completion but with numerous concerns, and only if a number of serious 'conditions' are met. Andrew and members of CCTT will speak at meeting of Transport & Environment Committee.

ACTION: Andrew will circulate a draft of his presentation for approval.

Buses – The No. 16 bus is being temporarily diverted on its city-bound route via the Shore and Henderson Street.

City of Edinburgh Consultations

Individual Councillors reminded to keep consulting the CEC Consultation Hub, and to respond to these as relevant <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

Fireworks – Local residents were disturbed two nights last week by noisy fireworks ?from Britannia ? that there was no warning of.

ACTION: Sally will email Britannia to ensure LLCC is kept on the email circulation list to receive advance notice that can then be passed to local pet owners etc.

Individual Councillors were asked to respond to the Scottish Government Consultation currently open on the sale of fireworks, see <https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/fireworks/>

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Controlled Parking Zone – no developments as yet. CEC is looking at this within an overall strategy involving other parts of Edinburgh, Tramworks issues etc.

8. Seafield Sewage – Update

A terrible sewage stench was being emitted on the day of the meeting. Those affected are encouraged to report using the LLCC web form. As usual, Scottish Water has ‘explained’ the problem, but not, apparently, been able to prevent it, nor apologised for it...

Landmark odour case in Highland

Scottish Water has recently been successfully sued by a Highlands litigant for offensive odour problems. This may be a valuable legal precedent.

9. Participatory Budgeting – *Feedback from Leith Chooses 2019. Results Night 6.03.19*

John proposed thanks to Sally for organising what was again a hugely successful programme, and Sally thanked the Leith Links CC team for providing excellent backup work on the day. Turnout was exceptionally high and the projects addressed the most acute inequalities, as was hoped. The ‘Kids’ vote’ was very popular and the boost vote was also appreciated although some found it harder to get to grips with. Lots of good suggestions were made on the evaluation board. The results will be announced on 6 March at the café, beginning 6.30pm. A Feedback session will be held on Tuesday 12 March at 6:30 pm also in Community Centre café.

10. Any Other Business

The road safety flower troughs at St Mary’s PS are not being maintained. The school received money for this from LLCC’s Community Links fund PB exercise in 2017, along with money for a play. Disappointing that neither have been followed through.

ACTION: Andrew will look into this.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 25 March 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30