

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 25 March 2019

6.30pm

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Angus Hardie, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair).

In attendance: PC Lauren Mitchell, 1 member of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Chair (John Tibbitt) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Cllr Gordon Munro, Cllr Chas Booth, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Chrissie Reid, Michael Traill.

2. Police Report by PC Lauren Mitchell

Complaints from residents: Officers have responded to more complaints from Gordon St and Manderston St. Police found untaxed cars, swapped number plates and dumped cars in Gordon Street. A car has been seized and a man charged, local residents are happy with this exercise.

A resident has asked for double yellow lines at the junction of Summerfield Gardens and Claremont Park, as cars parked too close to the opening (and frequently speeding traffic) on Claremont Park make it dangerous to exit the street into the main road. This is really a Council matter not PS.

ACTION: PC Mitchell will look into Summerfield Gardens situation and report back on road safety aspects.

Operation Contrition: Officers made over 100 visits to licensed premises. Several people have been arrested on warrants during patrols.

Cycle lanes: PC Mitchell confirmed that it is not an offence for drivers to park or drive in cycle lanes unless they park dangerously and/or cause a major obstruction. Similarly it is (currently) not an offence to park on pavements, though it is an offence to drive on a pavement.

Serious assault at the Marksman pub: 2 people arrested and charged.

Education on drugs and risks of social media: Officers have visited St Mary's Primary, Leith Primary and the Citadel Youth Club to give talks. Warnings have been given about a bad batch of Xanax in Leith currently causing serious health problems.

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3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 25 February 2019 and Matters Arising

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

Outstanding actions

Email to CEC in support of Leith Central CC on consultation about park events still to be sent.

4. Bus stops / parking on the Links

There are now proper markings at all the bus stops along Queen Charlotte Street, Links Place & Links Gardens.

Schools zone

The Council has consulted and will create a safety zone around both Leith and St. Mary's Primary Schools excluding traffic at certain times. This needs a TRO to mark the road and put up signs, which takes time.

5. Seafield Sewage Works – Update

Jim Scanlon had circulated a summary of events, correspondence and a breakdown of complaints figures via the LLCC website (57 between 15.2.19 and 18/3/19). In short, the situation is not improving – perhaps actually getting worse. The smell was exceptionally bad and long-lasting end February and all through March (warm weather) due to septic sludge. People are using the LLCC online reporting system, which is received by Council, Scottish Water and Veolia but are complaints being passed on by them to SEPA (who were claiming there have been no complaints)? Smells are the responsibility of the City Council, Scottish Water and Veolia. SEPA only sees itself as responsible for pollution incidents, so it apparently refuses to accept any other complaints.

What is needed is major investment to prevent smells, which we had been led to believe might come out of the recent review. However it seems that the various bodies involved continue to evade responsibility and action.

The next Leith Links Residents Association meeting is on 24 April and the next Seafield stakeholder meeting is on 25 April. Jim and Eileen will attend.

ACTION: Jim, Eileen, Sally will work on a short statement on the current situation to be published before the Stakeholder meeting (Copy to all Councillors, MSP, MPs and to Environment Minister, Roseanna Cunningham.

Continuous high pitched noise nuisance

This occurred at the beginning of March (coinciding exactly with the sludge build up and the bad odour period), and was reported by local residents both to LLCC and via the 'I Love Leith' FaceBook

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page. It was very loud and piercing and continued throughout the night. Sally investigated found it was loudest around Seafield/ Restalrig & Fillyside Road. The same noise occurred after a build-up of sludge and bad odours in August 2018, when technical problems with pumping equipment were admitted by Seafield, so Seafield seems the probable source this time too. LLCC reported it to CEC and so did several individual residents, however, apparently, like the smells, the noise cannot be recorded as a nuisance unless an official visits personally and hears it. The officer did not visit at the time the noise was occurring. He is due to visit next week (three weeks after the noise was reported). **ACTION: Sally/ Eileen / Jim to add the noise issue to the summary statement.**

6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

New Just Eat Bikes location?

The majority of responses to LLCC suggest placing them on the Links at the foot of Restalrig Road, opposite Bijou, beside the recycling bins, outside Leith Athletic changing rooms.

ACTION: Sally will forward the suggestions to the Just Eat bike people and CEC.

Parklife Meeting, 'Alfred?' the Owl etc.

Edinburgh University and CEC are giving a demonstration and explanation of the project at a community workshop hosted by Michael on 1 April. Several Community Councillors will attend.

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

A contractor has been appointed. Equipment is soon to be delivered, and work started.

Applications for use of Links for events, Consultation procedures

No further news. It is not clear whether the planned park run has received permission from CEC.

ACTION: Angus will further investigate the park run plans.

Leith Festival Gala Day 8th June 2019

Last year the CCs stall was very busy. This year, the Controlled Parking Zone would be an important topic for an interactive consultative exercise. Also, this is a good opportunity to promote the CC elections and give out leaflets. LLCC could disseminate trams news, information about this year's Leith Chooses, and/or run an interactive exercise about how to report Seafield smells/noise.

ACTION: Angus will ask at CCTT (Community Councils Together on Trams) whether a CEC trams rep could be present.

ACTION: Sally will look into updating the LLCC Seafield reporting leaflet.

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7. Local Democracy & CC governance

Feedback from NE Locality CCs meeting / Consultation on Review of Community Council

Scheme – live ‘til 22 April

Representatives of most of the NE CCs met on 20 March to discuss the consultation paper. Most proposed changes were seen as fairly minor and appropriate, but there was concern about the disciplinary procedures. Although justified in principle, they set out an onerous somewhat heavy-handed procedure for dealing with complaints (given that Community Councillors are volunteers!). All councillors should read the proposals. The discussion brought out several interesting differences between CCs. It was agreed that further meetings would be valuable, and a proactive way to build networks in the absence of Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs).

New structures: Neighbourhood Networks, Locality Partnerships

The new structure will be implemented in April, overseen by the Edinburgh Partnership Board. It is not yet clear who will be represented at each level. Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) has stated that it expects to have a representative on the Board. There is a strong view that CCs should be included at network level (and Locality?). Evelyn Kilmurry (NE Locality Manager) is keen for CCs to be represented.

CC elections

Michael is leading on election campaign. A joint leaflet with other CCs seems impractical, but a joint public meeting or meeting for/with possible candidates, might be possible. It was further suggested that articles (eg. on what a Community Councillor does etc. ‘Day in the Life of...’) could be submitted to the Leither, the Speaker and the Edinburgh Reporter.

8. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee – Update

Planning applications

11-15 Constitution Street There is no further news regarding Latto’s Garage, but the leaseholder has had his lease extended until October, meanwhile.

121 Constitution Street - change of use to a private dwelling has been approved, despite LLCC objecting.

Planning Advice Notice (PAN) – land east of 139 Leith Walk

This is quite a speculative application. An exhibition of early plans was to be held in McDonald Rd Library. The dates have now been postponed from 22 & 23 April and we will be notified of new dates soon.

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Save Leith Walk update

There is a new petition to ask Drum Property to re-open the shops, pending appeal or revised planning application.

Trams – CCTT update

CEC has decided to go ahead with the tram extension and has named the preferred bidder.

Controlled Parking Zone

This is being reviewed across the city. In Leith, it will interact with the trams plans. LLCC will put this on the agenda for next month and will consult e.g. Corstorphine CC about their experiences of this.

ACTION: John will raise this at EACC, to see if experience of other CCs can be useful.

9. Participatory Budgeting

Feedback from Leith Chooses 2019

The Results Night was well-attended and there was a valuable discussion at the Feedback Night. Chair received a letter of thanks to LLCC members who volunteered, from Caroline Lamond (CEC NE Lifelong Learning Service Manager). New members are being sought for next year's steering group. News is awaited as to what funds will be available and how this will be managed now Neighbourhood Partnership has gone.

10. Any Other Business - Open Forum

There is a national seminar on 23 April reporting on research about strengthening community councils.

ACTION: Angus and John will attend. Angus will send round info, in case others wish to sign up (but it seems to be already full.)

Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 29 April 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30