

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019

6.30pm

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair).

Elected Representatives: Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey, Cllr Gordon Munro.

In attendance: PC Margo Darling, Duncan Bremner (Leith Creative).

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome

Chair (John Tibbitt) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Stephen Brennan, Deidre Brock MP, Ben Macpherson MSP, Sally Millar and Michael Traill.

2. Police Report by PC Margo Darling

Speeding on Lochend Rd and Restalrig Rd: in a two-day campaign, speeding tickets and warnings were issued and one driver was charged with dangerous driving on Restalrig Road.

ACTION: PC Darling and Cllr Booth will ask for the mobile unit to be directed to these streets.

Operation Contrition: officers have been patrolling Cables Wynd and other hotspots at night.

Bike marking & registering: a stall was held at All Things Leith. Another will be held at Leith Gala Day.

Shut Out Scammers: this is a local campaign promoting methods to tackle doorstep and online crime.

Summerfield Gardens: PC Mitchell has contacted CEC, recommending installing double yellow lines at the corner with Gladstone Place. PC Darling will also investigate vehicles possibly abandoned near the worst spots.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 25 March 2019

Proposed GC; seconded by AM. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

ACTION: David Igoe was omitted from the attendance list; the minutes will be corrected.

4. Seafield Sewage Works – Update

Continuous high pitched noise nuisance

Since March there has been a problem with a continuous high-frequency whining noise, badly affecting local residents' quality of life. A Council Noise Officer has confirmed that comes from a worn pressure relief valve, which vents excess air when sludge levels are low. Insulated acoustic hoods have been installed and the air pressure reduced, in the hope of noise reduction. The LLCC website now allows for noise complaints (as well as smell).

Smell complaints

At the stakeholder meeting held with SEPA and Veolia on 26th April, Chair had emphasised that there

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were 128 complaints of smell made through the LLCC website since January. Rob Kirkwood of Leith Neighbourhood Association asserted that the problems continue to be 'managed', rather than dealt with. A class action is being considered against CEC and should include Scottish Water. Noise or smell is not the responsibility of SEPA; their role is the processing of sludge after it has left the plant. There needs to be pressure on the Scottish Government and Scottish Water to seek the funding for necessary investment. Promises are made, but action does not follow and it is not clear what the meetings are achieving. Primary legislation is needed.

ACTION: Chair has arranged for information added to the Port of Leith Residents Association newsletter explaining how to report odour and/or smell.

ACTION: Chair will write to Ben Macpherson MSP and Minister Roseanna Cunningham, stating that Seafield needs to be included in the Scottish Government capital improvement plans.

6. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

ParkLife Project Workshop has thanked everyone for attending the public meeting on 1st April. They will keep LLCC updated when they put their sensors into the park.

Just Eat Bikes – new site at Kirkgate

A new stand of bikes has been installed at the Kirkgate, and is being well used. LLCC had passed on the public's suggestions about possible new sites in our area, to Edinburgh Cycle Hire, but, thanking LLCC for its interest, they said that they were now only considering sites near CCTV/ good lighting.

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

Preparations are beginning (posts and fencing) for the upgrade work, which, it is hoped, should be complete by July. It is not clear whether the whole playground will be inaccessible during this time.

ACTION: Chair will email Darren Ryan to ask that informative diagrams of the plan be put up in the playground.

Applications for use of the Links for events

Angus has looked into the plan for a 5K run. It will be low-key, not a Parkrun event.

Other developments on the Links

Projekt 42 is looking at several options, so may not move into the bowling green building. There have been reports of anti-social behaviour as the building is currently unused. It could be turned into allotments as it has access to water, but would need to be more secure.

The landscaping is proceeding for the golf statue, but the seed did not take on the mounds. Chair has paid for a new delivery of seed. The Honourable Company of Golfers has donated £10,000 towards the statue, but wants it unveiled in September. Another £15,000 is still needed.

Leith Festival Gala Day 8th June 2019

Sally is seeking volunteers for the joint Community Councils' stall.

ACTION: Sally will circulate dates for a short meeting in mid-May to finalise details for the day..

7. Edinburgh Partnership & CC news

Feedback from EACC

The meeting on 21 April focused on a presentation by Ross Murray on the timetable for changes to CCs. There was discussion about engagement and fuller representation of communities.

New structures: Neighbourhood Networks, Locality Partnerships – update

There are three layers of community planning. The Edinburgh Partnership plan is strategic rather than detailed. There will be a Locality Partnership (NE) which is tasked with delivering issues that are brought to it by the Neighbourhood Network.

The seat that the EACC has on the Edinburgh Partnership board will be retained. Only two-thirds of CCs currently attend the EACC, which is seen as responding rather than being effectively proactive. CCs are not directly represented on the Locality Partnership but they can be part of the new Neighbourhood Network (that will send representatives to the LP), so will need to rely on that representation. It will be important for CCs to participate in NN. The NE Neighbourhood Network will be similar to the old Leith Neighbourhood Partnership. The aim is to make the new system more 'bottom-up'. The Neighbourhood Networks will be launched at first meeting on 30 May and will have some power over community grants and engagement with local partners. The aim is to create a forum where people bring issues, and the Locality delivers. However, there needs to be communication from the NN to the Locality.

At the same time, Coordinated by LLCC, the CCs in the NE locality have met up and plan to continue to build on that.

LLCC Annual Report: ACTION: Andrew, Angus & Sally will put together this year's report for AGM.

8. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

Planning applications – 11-15 Constitution Street, 121 Constitution Street

The Latto's Garage planning applications have been withdrawn. 121 was approved, despite several objections to change of use. There is now another live application at 89, to turn the Blackwood's solicitors' office into flats.

PAN – land east of 139 Leith Walk

The exhibition was postponed; no rescheduled date has yet been announced.

Save Leith Walk update

The campaign is still collecting signatures to get the shops re-opened.

Trams – CCTT update

There is a plan to remove the roundabout at the foot of Lochend Rd./Easter Road (linked to increased traffic due to rerouting of buses) and to redesign the junction. LLCC is seeking further information and keen to be involved in consultation.

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Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)

John has raised this at EACC; the pressure is likely to increase as people move into new developments and when the tram comes.. Other parts of the city are experiencing similar problems. A new report for CEC will highlight that Leith Walk has the highest parking pressure in the city, and Leith generally is under pressure. Recommendations will mostly be for a CPZ, rather than a Priority Parking Area (PPA).

9. Any Other Business

Duncan Bremner from Leith Creative spoke about their programme of work for this year, focusing on local Place Plans. Leith Creative is approaching the three CCs to develop a Leith proposals map and shared events. This will also link in to the 2030 Local Development Plan. Councillors agreed that LLCC will be happy to endorse and support this.

Exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh, 29 Mar-6 Oct

The “Past Lives of Leith” exhibition will focus on the archaeological work for the trams. Art students have recreated some of the faces of Leith inhabitants through forensic reconstruction. Could this exhibition could be brought to a location in Leith?

Zero Waste Leith

The staff of Smoke & Mirrors organised and carried out a very successful litter pick on 28 April.

Duncan Place transfer

Chair will represent LLCC on the group facilitating the process of the community transfer of the building.

Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 27 May 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30