

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2019

6.30pm

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

Community Councillors Present: Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, John Tibbitt (Vice-Chair), Michael Traill.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Gordon Munro.

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

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Cllr Adam McVey, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid.

2. Police Report

Joint patrols with CEC on anti-social behaviour and private taxis: six vehicle rectifications were ordered, and one taxi was taken off the road.

Joint operation on trading standards: some premises will continue to be subject to spot checks.

Hotspot patrols at Cables Wynd House/Great Junction Street: Safer Community Prevention Task Officers were out for three weeks in plain clothes for drugs and other anti-social behaviour.

Murder at Lochend Road: a man has been arrested and local reassurance visits were carried out.

MELA: all the community officers will be present.

3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 24 June 2019, and Matters Arising

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

Matters arising: After the CEC grant payment for the current year, there is £1204.77 in the main account and £586.98 in the project (Leith Chooses) account.

4. Redesign of Easter Road / Duke Street / Lochend Road roundabout - update

Duncan Place has been resurfaced but the bus diversions are struggling with parked vehicles.

5. Parks and Green Spaces Committee

Chair and David are placing event applications on the LLCC website for public comment. However,

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CEC needs to ask the applicants to detail how they will deal with issues such as foreseeable impact.

Leith Links Playpark upgrade

This has been finished. However concerns have been raised via social media about snagging issues such as damage to the flying fox, late seeding of grass areas, and abandoned signage and trade waste. It may be that some of the materials have been left for building the outdoor gym.

Rats and litter

Rats have become more numerous around the Bowling Green area, the Croft, Johns Place and Links Gardens. Local works may have disturbed them. The success of the playpark has also led, not to loose litter, but to increased use of the bins. Photos are being tweeted of overflowing bins. There may need to be more frequent emptying, and the “take it home” message needs to be reinforced.

ACTION: Cllr. Chas Booth will raise the issues of litter and rats with Environmental Health.

Mela 31 August – 1 September

This will proceed despite reduced funding.

John Rattray statue - update

Donations have come from as far afield as the US, totalling £100,000. The statue will be unveiled on 11 September by the Muirfield captain, with a reception to follow.

ACTION: Cllr Gordon Munro is looking into the costs of having the statue adopted by the City (which would mean maintenance costs could be covered.)

ParkLife project

The Owl is now on the entrance to the playpark. Work is proceeding, although delayed.

Pub in the Park application

Tom Kerridge’s “Pub in the Park” event seeks to use the Links in June 2020. Meeting felt that such events could contribute to the local community, but in this case it is not yet clear what the benefits are.

ACTION: LLCC will respond to CEC by 4 Sept, stating that some benefit to Leith through a substantial engagement with the community should be a condition of permission.

6. Local Democracy

Feedback from EACC

Next meeting on 19 September will discuss John’s proposal to extend the committee to include each

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locality, and to sync meetings more effectively with other bodies. The Chair is standing down and other places are likely to become vacant.

Leith Neighbourhood Network (LNN)

Douglas Tharby (LH&N CC) has been designated as the Link Person between LNN and the NE LCPP (North East Locality Community Planning Partnership). The chair will be elected at the next meeting on 4 September, 6 pm. In discussion, concern was expressed that this new body has been imposed top-down without sufficient consultation, and creates extra work for existing CC members without any additional empowerment.

ACTION: Chair and Michael will attend and report back.

Making Places

Duncan gave an update on progress. A co-design (with LLCC) event is proposed for Saturday 28 September and a Leith –wide conference for October (26/27th). There are to be six workshops altogether (three with CCs). The team have so far carried out mapping, identifying 75 organisations owning a building and another 60 large stakeholders in the area.

6. Planning & Licensing Sub-Committee

Community engagement in decisions relating to land – meeting with landowner

LLCC objected to two applications for Johns Place (change of use from language school to guesthouse) and Johns Lane (change of use to flats, from warehouse). Both were granted Planning permission.

Angus has investigated the duty of land-owners (as per recent Guidance from Ministers on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016): they are required to engage with the community.

ACTION: Chair is arranging a meeting with the landowner (Cameron Guest House Group) in September.

Current planning applications

Latto's Garage lease has been extended till next summer. LLCC councillors met with Sundial about the gasworks site. Options are limited to make it viable, considering the major cost of decontamination. The 19/00415 PAN (rear of 139 Leith Walk) seems to have been postponed indefinitely.

Save Leith Walk update – community buy-out plans

The community is awaiting the outcome of the appeal to the Reporter, by the developers.

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Community Buy-out plans are in preparation.

Trams – CCTT update

LLCC councillors, via CCTT, had an interesting although not very informative meeting in July with the Trams head of communications. Tram works are due to start in November.

Buses

The strike has been averted. EBUG is considering its response to the City Transformation plans.

8. Community Council election

There are 5000 leaflets to distribute among 65 streets, still many to complete. The nomination period is 9-30 September. Pop-ups in libraries are being planned alongside Leith Harbour CC, and there will be an informal joint event to provide information and encourage new nominees. Five new people have so far shown interest in standing, and information is set out on the LLCC website about the spaces for representatives of local organisations. Chair encouraged all current councillors to stand again as the team has been very successful. Councillors standing are urged to download nomination forms and get these signed by nominator and seconder.

9. Seafield Sewage Works – update

Chair has contacted Ben Macpherson MSP to urge sending a letter, as there has still been no response from the Cabinet Minister's Office. The smell problem has however been better in the last two months. Michael and Chair are meeting Bill Elliott about IT communication.

LLRA is crowd funding to pay for an ex-SEPA lawyer. Eileen proposed making a supportive donation of £100; David seconded the motion. A majority voted in favour and the motion was passed.

ACTION: Chair will write again to Roseanna Cunningham, asking for a response.

ACTION: LLCC will contact LLRA regarding the donation.

11. Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 30 September 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30.