

# Unofficial Notes

## From an informal meeting of the recently (temporarily) dissolved Leith Links Community Council

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019  
6.30pm  
LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

**Councillors Present:** Stephen Brennan, Gail Clapton, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Chrissie Reid, Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill.

**In Attendance:** PC Margo Darling, 1 member of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Sally Millar took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jim Scanlon and John Tibbitt. Because this is mid-election time, the Community Council does not technically exist for the next few days / week, hence the absence of all three elected representatives. However, it was felt that an unofficial / informal discussion would be useful to prevent 'falling behind' with important matters. On behalf of the Chair, Sally Millar thanked all the Community Councillors for all their hard work over the three year term of the Community Council.

### 2. Police Report

*Procession to Hindu Mandir for Ganesh Chaturthi on 7 September:* this was a very successful event.

*Suicide Prevention stall at Ocean Terminal:* a valuable event. Helpful contacts / links will be printed in The Speaker newspaper (available from The Hub, Restalrig Road).

*Youth anti-social behaviour:* ongoing patrols are tackling problems at Primrose St & Burns St.

*Open Doors Weekend:* Leith Police Station attracted over 800 visitors. It would be good to open the debating chamber occasionally to the public.

*Notices about fines for people who give money to "beggars":* PC Darling emphasised that these posters are fake and do not correctly represent the law. Police and Council are removing them whenever they are found.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 26 August 2019

Proposed by Andrew Mackenzie; seconded by Michael Traill (this will need to be ratified at next official Community Council meeting.)

### 4. Transport & Traffic

### ***Duke St roundabout***

Secy had contacted Steven Blacklaw (Planning & Transport, CEC) for an update and his reply is now available on the LLCC website, with a full update on progress and explaining that the removal of the actual roundabout is delayed by Scottish Power problems (disconnection of lighting column needed).

### ***Tramworks***

Andrew Mackenzie reported on a CCTT meeting with Darren Wraight and Chris Wilson of the Trams team. Monthly meetings will continue. Work will begin on Constitution St, from November 15. Dilapidation surveys are being carried out on houses there, without warning, which has surprised some residents. Leith Walk will not be shut off initially. Maps and drawings will be finalised this week and publicised. Street shut-offs will be extensive. Communications are supposed to be 6 weeks in advance of any major activities. The trams website is not really sufficient as a source of public updates, needs to be promoted: <https://edinburghtrams.com/>

**ACTION: Andrew M. will write a short note for the LLCC website to explain about dilapidation surveys.**

### ***Controlled Parking Zone for Leith***

This has been agreed in principle but there will be further consultation before it happens. Cllr Booth is seeking a clearer statement of plans. Options may include 'Priority Parking': i.e. timed restrictions to deter commuter parking.

### ***400 metres between bus stops***

The city transformation plans include extending the distance between bus stops. EBUG is strongly opposed to this and has written a paper pointing out that this is arbitrary (not based on local research, trialling, evaluation, consultations) and clearly discriminatory.

### ***Just Eat bikes***

Some sites are to be locked and some are being removed during tramworks.

## **5. Parks and Green Spaces Committee**

### ***Safety, cleanliness***

Plastic bottles are being left after football matches at the old Leith Academy end.

**ACTION: Andrew M. will send a friendly email to alert the secretary of Leith Athletics.**

There have been several unprovoked assaults carried out by teenagers around the new playpark and St Andrews Pl. These have been reported to the police.

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

This has been a huge success and the park is very busy. Evelyn Kilmurray confirms that the rainbow sign will be renovated / replaced. The scheme had spare funds, so some was spent on a nearby

'outdoor gym'.

### **John Rattray statue**

The fencing is still in place, for insurance reasons, until the statue is adopted by CEC.

There was further discussion about formation of a 'Friends' group. It was noted that Friends of Dalmeny, Pilrig & Figgate Parks have been successful in lobbying for outcomes, and also for raising extra funds (which the Links would need to, e.g. to turn the unused bowling greens into a caged basketball or 5 a side football court or suchlike).

**ACTION: meeting agreed that the new LLCC should prioritise discussions about facilitating formation of a Friends group.**

### ***Ladyboys & La Clique on Leith Links for 31 days***

LLCC is collating the responses from the community to the consultation form on the LLCC website and will pass this, along with the CC's own views, on to CEC. The meeting agreed that LLCC's position is to oppose the application because of the very long time period it would occupy public space on the Links. LLCC further noted that CEC's events application form requires very little information from applicants, and as a consequence is able to provide very little information on which the community can make an informed judgement.

### **6. Local Democracy, Community Engagement**

The Leith CCs will take a joint stall at the Volunteer Fair, 10th October 4-7pm, to promote their work.

**ACTION: meeting agreed that LLCC will donate £10 towards the Fair's costs.**

**ACTION: Gail will look into the price of small (sustainable and ethical) LLCC 'branded' items to give out as a means of raising the CC profile with the public.**

### ***Feedback from NN, Locality Community Planning Partnership, EEACC***

NE Locality Community Planning Partnership – a meeting earlier today was attended by Douglas Tharby of LH&NCC, on behalf of the Leith Neighbourhood Network.

EEACC - An EBUG representative and a CEC official gave presentations.

**ACTION: meeting agreed the new LLCC should further develop relationships with north-east CCs.**

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

#### ***Community Engagement in decisions relating to land (Scottish Land Commission): meeting with local landowner***

LLCC is still negotiating a meeting date with K&S Mir, who have also expressed unwillingness to meet with other than the LLCC Chair alone.

#### ***Current planning applications***

Approval has been given for the Johns Place change of use from language school to bedsits.

The application to change 89 Constitution St from office to residential use has been rejected.

### ***Leith Links Proposal event on 28 September, in partnership with Leith Creative***

Small group but a worthwhile session. The speakers were excellent. Daya Feldwick outlined aspects of the new Planning Bill and highlighted achievements by Planning Democracy in shaping this. Deirdre Henderson of @PLACEEdinburgh focused on issues regarding AirBnBs and short-term rentals, and how to tackle this.

The wider 'Leith Conference' drawing all these smaller sessions together and building on them, and on other consultations, will be held on 26-27 October in Norton Park Conference Centre.

### ***Other parts of Leith***

- There will be a PAN at Leith Library on 16<sup>th</sup> October 3-5 pm for the Barratts proposal for the old Council car pound, behind the already agreed Barratts development on Salamander Street.
- *19/03802/PAN 48-50 Iona Street development*: the proposals to build a very dense development including student accommodation, in the old timber yard are very concerning. A 'Save Iona Street' group has been formed.
- *Save Leith Walk*: the group is having a meeting on 9 October about community buy-out plans.
- *19/00415/PAN (rear of 139 Leith Walk)*: this seems to have been postponed indefinitely.

### **9. Seafield Sewage Works - update**

There were c. 60 complaints via the website over the weekend, over a wide area, reflecting much anger, locally. Ben Macpherson MSP and LLCC have sent letters to Roseanna Cunningham raising the issue of why the major works promised earlier in the year now appear to have been dropped.

**ACTION: Eileen and Michael will consult with Jim and produce a press release and a supportive response to individuals who have complained.**

### **10. Leith Chooses**

This launches on 1 October at 6pm in the Community Centre cafe. There will be £44,000 for community projects, applications to be in by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, voting Day is 1 February 2020.

**11. Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 28 October 2019, 6.30pm. Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate. PLEASE NOTE START TIME 6.30.**