

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019

6.30pm

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE (NEWKIRKGATE)

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton, Abby Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Rafiqul Islam, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon, Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill.

In Attendance: Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey, Cllr Gordon Munro, PC Margo Darling, one member of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declaration of Election Results

Cllr Munro, acting as Returning Officer for the LLCC election of 2019, declared eleven candidates to be elected unopposed. He also apologised on behalf of CEC for errors during the process which had caused confusion and is still ongoing, meaning that one candidate had still not been registered. He assured the meeting that this will be addressed. He welcomed the new councillors and thanked those returning for their contributions.

New Community council comprises:

Gail Clapton	Abby Cunningham	Angus Hardie
David Igoe	Rafiqul Islam	Andrew Mackenzie
Sally Millar	Chrissie Reid	Jim Scanlon
Eileen Simpson,	Michael Traill	tbc

Members then elected the office bearers:

Chair: Jim Scanlon. Proposed by Gail Clapton; seconded by Eileen Simpson.

Vice Chair: held over to a future discussion (not a statutory position)

Secretary: Sally Millar. Proposed by Jim Scanlon; seconded by Michael Traill.

Treasurer: Gail Clapton. Proposed by Sally Millar; seconded by Angus Hardie.

Engagement Officer (new statutory post): Michael Traill. Proposed by David Igoe; seconded by Sally Millar.

The newly re-elected Chair then took over.

2. Police Report

Safer Communities Prevention Task Force: the team spent six weeks in Leith tackling hot spots for

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anti-social behaviour and drugs. Among their successes were 75 arrests & reports and 162 stops & searches, of which 68 were positive. They seized drugs and weapons and recovered stolen property.

Armed robbery in Great Junction St: four males have been arrested and reported.

Operation Crackle: patrols throughout the city will again be dealing with fireworks and disorder.

Anti-social behaviour in the Kirkgate: Concern was expressed that when members of the public call 101, they are told no officers are available. However, it is still worthwhile calling, because the complaints are registered and the task force will not be allocated in future if no complaints have been received. The Task Force checked the Kirkgate regularly, and this will continue with Constable Chris O'Donnell joining the Leith team.

Cycle docking station: The cycle hire scheme has moved the docking station out of the Kirkgate.

ACTION: PC Darling will ask PS Nesbit whether anti-social behaviour was a factor in the move.

3. Adoption of Minutes of meetings (26 August 2019 & unofficial notes of 30 September 2019)

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

4. Parks and Green Spaces Sub Committee

Meeting appointed David Igoe as secretary, and Chrissie and Abby as members.

Safety, cleanliness (rats, dead or alive)

The meeting moved a vote of thanks to Cllr Booth for safely removing and disposing of a dead rat that had been reported to LLCC and then CEC. It was noted that CEC Public Health Dept should be contacted regarding rats on private land, or Street Cleaning Dept. if it is public/Council land.

Updates on activities on the Links: playpark, outdoor gym, coffee stall

The playpark continues to be a huge success. Use is being made of the outdoor gym, although it would have been preferable if stakeholders had been consulted about the proposed locations.

The Vanilla Pod coffee stall has proved very popular, but was recently removed, as the vendor had not realised that permission to put the vehicle on the Links is not the same as a license to trade.

ACTION: Sally will contact CEC asking why permission was given to place the vehicle on the Links, (which we had thought was barred) rather than on the street (Duncan Place) as the vendor had apparently requested.

Friends of Leith Links

The CC agrees that a Friends Group would be valuable to pursue a number of activities to support and improve the Links, including reviewing applications to use the park, and for fundraising

ACTION: David will initiate contact with other Friends groups to explore setting one up.

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Events on the Links

Gung Ho, which is moving from the Meadows, wants to organise a fun run and obstacle course for 21st & 22nd May. This would occupy a very large part of the Links.

There are competing interests as regards events. They bring visitors and income to the area. However, residents want to enjoy the park, events can interfere with schools activities and the football and cricket season, and grass needs to recover

CEC policy is not to use the Links for events for more than a total of 15 days a year. Green Party CEC councillors oppose the city permitting any individual event lasting longer than 15 days, as this kills grass. Heavy vehicles have also damaged drainage in other parks, limiting amenity for long periods. There is a major difference between commercial events that can be lengthy, and community events, e.g. Leith Festival Gala. LLCC prioritises community events. CEC consults a limited number of identified stakeholders. It was noted that CEC only requests limited information from applicants, so it is difficult to predict an event's impact. Michael proposed a motion, seconded by Sally, and approved by the meeting:

“That this Community Council resolves to write to the City of Edinburgh Council (Director of Place, Convenor of Culture & Communities Committee and Convenor of Transport & Environment) (copied into Leith Ward Councillors and all political group leaders) to request that it carries out a review of the parks & greenspaces event applications process with a view to ensuring that communities are provided with all the relevant information required to properly consider such applications.”

ACTION: Sally will write to CEC as directed by the motion.

5. Planning & Licensing Sub Committee

Meeting appointed Andrew as secretary, and Angus, Jim and Sally as members. Chair outlined the main ongoing developments in our area, for the new councillors. Andrew proposed setting up a consultation tool for LLCC website allowing local members of the community (postcode checked) to leave comments ?anonymously? on development proposals, so that we can consult community more fully. **ACTION: Andrew to pursue.**

6. Licensing (New sub-committee)

Meeting appointed Michael Traill as licensing secretary. Abby nominated Michael to apply to represent LLCC at the Licensing Forum; seconded by Andrew.

A serious problem is that the Licensing Board does not notify LLCC of applications, so LLCC cannot monitor these easily. Cllr Booth raised this with the Clerk of the Licensing Board, who replied that the recipients of neighbour notifications are laid down in statute and that the Board is not prepared

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to add others. **ACTION: Cllr Booth will raise this with the Licensing Board again.**

7. Transport & Traffic

Meeting appointed Andrew & Angus as representatives to Community Councils Together on Trams.

Tramworks update

Steven Blacklaw of CEC is supplying regular updates about the Easter Rd/Duke St roundabout. There have been delays but the traffic lights should be installed in the next fortnight.

Restalrig Road and Links Garden

Resurfacing has been delayed, but is now about to take place.

Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) for Leith

Pamphlets have been distributed to some homes about the preliminary consultation. The closing date is 10 November. There are drop-in sessions and an online consultation.

ACTION: Sally will convene a working group with Eileen to draft a response on behalf of LLCC, and individuals are encouraged to submit their own.

8. Local Democracy, Community Engagement

Feedback from EACC

Meeting resolved to nominate John Tibbitt for Chair and to send a representative to the AGM.

ACTION: Chair will submit the nomination, and Chair and Gail will attend the AGM on 21st November.

Leith Neighbourhood Network - next meeting is on 27 November at 6pm in McDonald Rd Library.

9. Seafield Sewage Works

Meeting appointed Eileen and Jim as Seafield co-leads.

Over the weekend of 21-23 September there was a huge spike in complaints of smell and noise. Eileen has compiled a spreadsheet of the complaints and plans to publicise this widely.

ACTION: As a first step, Eileen will email those who made complaints to acknowledge their concerns and investigate whether they would like to take further action.

Scottish Water is seeking another stakeholder meeting in December.

ACTION: Chair will contact them to arrange a suitable date.

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