

Minutes

MONDAY 6th April 2020, 6:30pm
(postponed from 30th March)
By Zoom (due to Coronavirus)

Community Councillors Attending: Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Angus Hardie, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Jim Scanlon (Chair), Michael Traill (Engagement Officer), Councillor Chas. Booth

Minute Taker – Sally Millar

1. Welcome. Resolved that this is a formal meeting of LLCC, the meeting link was published on the LLCC website.
Apologies: Councillor Gordon Munro, Eileen Simpson.

2. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (24.02.2020)**
Adopted. Proposed Michael Traill, Seconded Gail Clapton

3. Planning Matters

LLCC has written to Head of Planning Dept., & Development Management Sub Committee (DMSC) on behalf of LLCC to express concern about the planning process, specifically (1) Planning decisions being made by Council Officers instead of committee for large and potentially contentious sites and (2) PANS (e.g. for Steads Place) being allowed to continue when proper public consultation is impossible. Reply received only from Rob Munn as Ben MacPherson MSP's case worker. Cllr Chas Booth clarified that contentions applications would be decided not by just officers but by Leadership Advisory Panel with one member from each political party, from DMSC. However, with new emergency legislative powers, process will probably be further modified to suspend contentious applications until full DMSC can meet.

ACTION: Chas Booth will enquire and feedback to LLCC re the issue of PANS proceeding without public consultation and engagement with the local community.

ACTION: Andrew will contact Planning Officer directly to ask about Constitution Street applications that are going through.

Community Councillors expressed concern about lack of transparency in the Planning process (eg. how to monitor progress of an application) and wished it might be possible to sit down with Planners to learn more about the process. Cllr Booth recommended contacting Planning Advisory Scotland for possible training on planning processes. It was felt that this might have some value but might not address the particular Edinburgh issues. It was suggested that some council officers might be using the coronavirus emergency as an excuse to sidestep democratic accountability. CCs should not have to comb through Minutes to find important information – why do some people seem to receive information and others not?

Cllr Booth recommended checking that CC is fully 'subscribed to updates', on the CEC website.

ACTION: Andrew will contact CEC Comms Dept. to find out more about what information CCS should receive.

4. Parks and Greenspaces Matters

Lindsay Grant (Events) was told, again, that LLCC is opposed to Circus Extreme, but he has been back asking for written reasons (although these have already been sent) and asking 'what it would take' for LLCC to accept events on the Links.

Councillors agreed that it is not appropriate for Council officers to decide unilaterally, 'for' CCs, what information they should or should not receive about applications for Parks events. The following motion was passed:

That this Community Council intimates to City of Edinburgh Council that, in relation to any events applications relating to parks & greenspaces land within the Leith Links Community Council area, expects that in addition to the actual application form, LLCC is provided with all relevant additional information submitted as part of the application process, with the exception/ redaction of any information which can reasonably be considered as commercially sensitive/ confidential.

ACTION: Sally will write, restating the objections, so that Lindsay can circulate this to colleagues, and to make the above request.

5. Transport & Traffic

It was agreed that while the coronavirus emergency persists, and buses are running largely empty through the city, this is not the time to pursue the campaign about the No 12 bus/ services to the north side of the Links.

6. Seafield Sewage Works

Chair had written today to Scottish Water pointing out that when people in 'lock down' are desperate to get outside for a little daily exercise they should not be overwhelmed by noxious odours, and asking for more information about future work planned, and assurances that work will not be carried out when there are onshore winds. There seems to be no evidence that Seafield operators are making any effort at all to minimise odour emissions

No reply as yet.

7. Local Democracy, Community Engagement

City Plan 2030, City Mobility Plan – extended response period until 30 April 2020. Planning sub group is meeting regularly by Zoom to confer on LLCC response, which is being written into a shared Google Doc.

Planning sub-committee has met by Zoom with Chair of Portobello CC and will be contacting Craigentiny & Meadowbank CC to prepare joint strategy re the huge Seafield site that is likely to be developed for housing in the future. It is intended to ask for Master Planning and a Place Brief for this site, to ensure coordinated and coordinated overall design, as well as appropriate infrastructure demands, to ensure that a community is built, not just housing, and that development of the site is not piecemeal 'developer-led,' but community led. Cllr Booth felt these were valid and reasonable demands, but that it is early days still for this site. His own views include the need for active travel planning and employment land, as well as housing.

8. **Licensing** – nothing to report

9. Any Other Business

Andrew reported that Police had apparently told Inverleith allotment holders that they could only spend half an hour on their allotments. He believed they were overstepping their powers, and hoped that no such incidents would occur around Leith Links.

10. **Next meeting: 27th April, 6:30 via Zoom**