

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 25 MAY 2020

6.30pm

by ZOOM

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Abigail Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Christine Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill (Engagement Officer).

Elected Representatives: Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey.

In Attendance: Two Members of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies for absence were received. Chair thanked Sally Millar for drafting the protocol for actions if the Zoom connection fails (See Appendix). Query as to whether Police Scotland (a) will still attend CC meetings under new funding arrangements, and (b) can access Zoom.

ACTION: Chair will contact Community Police to enquire whether they can/will attend and to ask for a short written report if not.

2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 27 April 2020, and Matters Arising

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

3. Planning Matters

Current planning applications in our area

Andrew wanted to know how to find out where applications are in the planning system, as this is not at all transparent. *Constitution St applications:* LLCC had objected to 2 applications. Andrew recently wrote to senior planning officer Nancy Jamieson, to establish the status of these; the response was that it is not yet decided who will handle these cases (Council Officers or Development Management Sub Committee). Cllr. Chas Booth said council officers are dealing with less controversial applications, but ward councillors get a list of all applications and can ask for 'presentation' of particular cases at DM Sub committee, meeting online. He agreed to look out for these cases.

Teague Ropeworks development (next phase): CEC Development Management sub-committee discussed a PAN for the latest phase of this development (details were sent to Leith Central CC not

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to Leith Links CC). The public meeting was prevented by the lockdown, but Cllr Booth argued for the developers to be obliged to present the information and allow for discussion online. A 'twin track' approach was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Chas Booth will follow up with CEC planners & case officers and planners to press for a public event online. LLCC Chair will write to Teague to request that their proposal be presented and discussed in an online meeting.

Other parts of Leith

City Plan 2030 - LLCC submitted a response, now available on website.

Leith Walk/Halmyre St. site: CEC is consulting in order to develop a Place Brief for this large site which borders on LLCC area, closing on 1 June. Agreed that LLCC should submit a response based on its City Plan 2030 principles.

ACTION: Sally and Andrew will draft and submit response.

4. Local Democracy; COVID-19 Update

CEC review of Community Council elections 2019

CEC has produced a report on the community council elections which was sent to EACC but was not made more widely available. Disappointing that local CCS were not invited to make any input to the review. The outcomes include a decision to cut back on the validation stages of the process to save time and avoid errors.

Council recycling

Special uplifts and Recycling Sites likely to be restored / re-opened on 1 June. CEC is introducing a booking system to avoid queues. Cllr McVey hoped LLCC could make it known that there will be immense pressure on the system at first. The service performance of waste collection, including restored glass collection, and now garden waste, has been good so far and complaints are at a five-year low.

5. Transport & Traffic Matters

Road closures

The Links Gardens closure, initially for 3 weeks, is now confirmed 'for the foreseeable future', thanks to Scottish Government new temporary infrastructure programme 'Spaces for People'. It aims to connect greenspaces and help to separate cyclists from pedestrians. Cllr Booth was asked whether he had been aware of the Links Gardens closure at the time of the previous LLCC meeting (27 April) so that he could have told us. He stated that he was notified only when the decision was made

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public (29 April). He emphasised that the changes had to be introduced rapidly to increase public safety. Cllr McVey explained that he and Cllr Cammy Day had taken the decision, backed by findings from other cities, and agreed by 4 out of the 5 parties on CEC. There was discussion between community and CEC councillors as to whether the road closures required such urgency that no prior consultation or information sharing took place, and whether they were the best approach to ensure cyclist and pedestrian safety, because there can be unintended consequences. Councillors stressed that people will be returning to work but less keen to use public transport, and some will be inexperienced cyclists who need to feel safe. There will be an announcement soon about further changes. There has been a huge online response from citizens seeking more pedestrian and cycle priority across the city.

Chair asked about consultation on future further road closures. From now on, there will be a 'up to 5-day' (including weekends) window for public response before new closures are introduced. Local community councils will be contacted directly. CEC is looking for 'expert local knowledge' to inform plans, rather than a 'Yes' / 'No' type of response. If a TTRO does not work, it can be removed or changed (this happened successfully following responses from the Braid Road community).

A community councillor observed that the biggest safety risk currently is often from cyclists. It was agreed that there is an issue with cyclists using the pavements.

A member of the public suggested that Hermitage Park (where Hermitage Park Primary School is) up to where it meets RyeHill Grove/Ave could be closed to traffic either entirely or at School entry and exit times. Cllr McVey noted that as public health is the central aim, streets with large movements of people will be the main target, particularly if this is at certain times of day. So this suggestion might be considered (whereas other suggestions, eg. to close all the narrow streets between Lochend Road and Restalrig Road might be viewed less favourably).

6. Parks and Green Spaces Matters

Friends of Leith Links

The subcommittee will progress preparations for contacting and inviting other stakeholders to a Friends of Leith Links Group meeting.

ACTION: Sub Committee will liaise with Michael Trill about a website post inviting participation.

Damage appearing on Leith Links

Some deep and hazardous holes have appeared and the cause is not clear. Councillors have contacted Parks Dept. but no action so far. Also, as people are walking more and trying to avoid cyclists and joggers, new paths are appearing across the grass. Edinburgh Disgraces has again

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tweeted asking LLCC about restoring the bowling green area. Tennis nets have been vandalised.

ACTION: Cllr Booth will contact Edinburgh Leisure about tennis net repairs.

Ratray statue

This has now been adopted by CEC but CEC Parks Dept will only take the site over fully if/when the marram grass-laying process on the mounds has succeeded. The fencing will remain till then, for public liability insurance. Meanwhile, there are attractive wild flowers on the mounds, but local frustration about the fencing.

ACTION: Secretary will write to Leith Rules Golf Society to raise concerns about the delays with landscaping.

7. Seafield Sewage Works

Odours persist and increase. There have been 123 complaints via the LLCC website since March, with two particularly bad spikes in fine weather. Craig Carr, PFI performance manager for Scottish Water, emailed Chair re a June stakeholder meeting on the £10million Scottish Govt funding. Scottish Water apologises on behalf of Veolia but the same problems keep recurring. SW and Veolia's response is always reactive rather than preventative.

ACTION: Chair will contact Craig Carr for more information.

9. Any Other Business - Open Forum

Urgent matters: as monthly meetings are truncated, it was agreed that urgent topics such as transport and traffic issues need to be discussed between meetings.

ACTION: Michael, Sally and Chair will meet and agree possible actions.

Emails: meeting agreed that emails sent out should clearly show whether they come from the Community Council (or an authorised subcommittee), or from an individual resident.

10. Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 29 June 2020, 6.30pm, by ZOOM.

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ZOOM PROTOCOL For Community Council Members

Joining the Meeting

- Please join before or on time, with video on, and mic on, say hello etc.
- Once Chair declares formal meeting is open, mute your mic and keep it muted until the Chair invites you to speak.
- If you 'arrive' late, keep your mic muted.
- If you want to speak, raise your (physical) hand on onscreen until the Chair notes it and invites you to speak, then unmute yourself and speak. You can also click on the onscreen 'raise hand' signal, but that is easily missed by the host and/or Chair. If you do use that signal, be sure to unclick it once you've spoken.
- Mute yourself again after speaking.
- If you have a comment, a question to ask, or a point to make, you can use the CHAT function and write it there (to 'everyone' or to a specific participant only).

Leaving the Meeting

- If you need to leave the meeting, don't just leave 'silently' - please either gesture (wave goodbye and point off screen) or say, 'I'm going now' – or write in the CHAT function window to 'everyone'. Then press 'Leave Meeting'.
(That way, we know that if someone leaves suddenly without saying anything, that they have 'fallen out' involuntarily for technical reasons and we need to start the process of suspending the meeting).

If one or more people suddenly exit in mid-meeting, involuntarily, for technical reasons, the following procedure will be followed:

- The host and one other nominated 'spotter' will note your absence and tell the Chair. **The meeting will then be suspended for up to a maximum of 5 minutes**, to give the person(s) time to try and reconnect and rejoin. The Host or another member will phone the person(s) to notify them that their absence is noted, check on what's happening etc.
- Other members should not leave the screen (or do so only very briefly) in case the person reconnects quickly and the meeting can restart before 5 minutes is up.
- Any discussions during this 5 minute period can be social only, the business of the meeting shall not continue, decisions cannot be made, and the discussion will not be minuted.
- After a maximum of 5 minutes, whether or not the person has managed to rejoin, the meeting will be resumed as normal **if the meeting is still quorate (4 or more voting members left)**.
- If the person has not managed to rejoin, and **the meeting is left NOT quorate**, then the meeting will be closed.

This procedure can be carried out once only per person. In other words, if the same person keeps falling out of the meeting, rejoining then falling out again, they only get the first 5 minute period to rejoin. If they can rejoin again after subsequent incidents that's fine but they must accept that they have missed some of the discussion and cannot expect it to be recapped for them..

If members of the public observing the meeting leave involuntarily, the meeting will not be suspended and they will not be followed up. Of course, if they can rejoin, that's fine.

This procedure is subject to review and can be amended as necessary. Any revised protocol should be sent out to all Community Council Members at least a week before the meeting (like Agenda and Minutes).