

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

MONDAY 27 JULY 2020

6.30pm  
by ZOOM

**Councillors Present:** Abigail Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson.

**Elected Representatives:** Cllr Adam McVey.

**In Attendance:** John Tibbitt (EACC Chair).

**Minute Taker:** Kay Goodall.

#### 1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Deidre Brock MP, Gail Clapton, Cllr Gordon Munro, Christine Reid, Michael Traill.

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 29 June 2020

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

#### 3. LLCC Website

##### ***Funding investment in enhanced features (forms, security)***

Michael Traill's Engagement Officer report (attached to June's minutes) proposes investment in enhanced website features (1) to comply fully with GDPR and ensure good security, and (2) to add features / improve the creation of response forms (eg. the Seafield one currently, or others in the future). Discussion was deferred till Michael can be present and can supply more information.

##### ***Editorial Guidelines***

*Authorship details:* Currently, each website posting shows the tagline of an individual author. Meeting agreed that postings should either be anonymous (authorship is inferred to be LLCC) or should explicitly show LLCC as author. Anonymous was preferred.

**ACTION: Michael Traill will be consulted and asked to make the technical changes necessary.**

*Sub-Committees:* Meeting agreed that each sub-committee (Planning, Parks & Greenspaces, Traffic & Transport) or unofficial group (eg. Seafield sewage) should assume responsibility for posting material on their own topic(s). They can either post it themselves directly or write down exactly

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

what they want posted (plus images if required) and ask Michael Traill to post it on their behalf.

Currently 'Editors' of the website are Michael, Jim and Sally. Each sub-committee or group could nominate someone to be added as an Editor (some training can be provided), or they may prefer to send material to Michael for posting. (This needs to be written in full, not just a note asking Michael to post 'something')

Parks and Greenspaces agreed they would probably send content to Michael rather than becoming an Editor themselves. Planning will probably post themselves, but will need to liaise with Michael if and when response forms or comments are required. If sending content to Michael it is important that any urgency re date of posting or response deadlines be made clear, and that the content is complete and easily legible (but format doesn't matter as Michael will reformat).

Consistency of writing style is a key issue (as short, simple and factual as possible). Michael has recommended in the past that there be no more than one post per day (or items can get 'buried').

*News:* There is still very much a role for the Engagement Officer to post other items (eg. from LLCC, other Community Councils, CEC etc. and/or of general concern to the community) but meeting agreed that the website should not aim to be a 'scoop' news service, as other platforms do this.

*Updating personal details:* Each Community Councillor was asked to produce a short (100-200 max words) pen picture of themselves and their main community concerns.

**ACTION: All Councillors will complete a short bio for the website, send to Michael asap**

*Re-ordering, Archiving?*

Meeting noted that 'Our Library' page has become rather full and it is therefore tedious to scroll to find latest documents.

**ACTION: Sally will consult Michael about re-ordering "Our Library" so the latest items added appear at the top not the bottom. Also review whether some documents could be archived.**

#### **4. Remit and responsibilities of LLCC sub-committees/groups, and structure of future meetings**

Meetings can get overloaded with reporting and going over 'old ground', often with not enough time for actual discussion. Meeting agreed to trial an arrangement whereby sub-committees / groups provide a short written report (bullet points) before each meeting, on key issues, actions, proposals. Sub-groups should submit these in time to go out with the minutes and agenda (i.e. at least one week before the meeting). Then they can highlight perhaps one important point for discussion at the meeting – don't need to go through 'everything'. Sub-groups can communicate routinely with external people on behalf of LLCC, but matters that might need wider discussion should be shared at meetings. Rapid response matters can be discussed/signed off by email; less urgent matters should

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

wait till meetings. (Written reports would also make it much easier to collate the annual report.)

### 5. Updates

#### Parks & Greenspaces

*Friends of Leith Links:* Abby has compiled an email list of consultees.

**ACTION: the sub-group will soon send out a short agreed email to all consultees.**

*Deep holes on the Links:* These are a hazard. Scott is on holiday so there has been no response yet from Parks Dept.

*Anti-social behaviour on the Links near John's Place:* a member of the public has filmed this. Large groups of twenty or so are gathering without social distancing, though not all are causing trouble. However, other smaller groups have been noisy late at night. These will not be from the homeless accommodation, as that is locked at night. Sgt George Nisbet has been very good at taking issues on board and this could be raised with him. Overall, however, the Links have been used responsibly. The main problem has been clearing litter fast enough. Cllr McVey has flagged this up with CEC.

**ACTION: Cllr McVey will ask the CEC refuse officers if the problem of capacity can be addressed.**

*Ice-cream van parked by the playpark:* this may have permission to park on the street, but not on the Links itself.

**ACTION: Cllr McVey will speak to Licensing officials to find out licensing status and enforcement procedures.**

#### Seafield Sewage

There is a stakeholders' meeting on Friday 31 July, 10-1. Meanwhile Chair has written to Roseanna Cunningham, cc'd to Ben Macpherson MSP.

#### Planning

*Old Mitchell's café site on Henderson Street:* there is an application to convert this commercial unit into flats. Work has already begun but without/before 'Change of Use' permission. Chair has informed LH&NCC, and also reported this and complained to Planning Dept. These shop units on the ground floor of tenements were originally designed to benefit the community; it is a shame to lose them.

*Seafield seafront development:* There have been 363 responses to the survey and 96% want a strong community voice to pursue an integrated master plan for the site. The four community councils (Portobello, Leith Links, Craighentiny & Meadowbank, Leith Harbour & Newhaven) and the architect Malcolm Fraser have started meeting with senior Council Officers to persuade CEC to designate the

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

area for a master plan. Chair thanked all those involved for their work.

*Stead's Place:* Drum Properties have come back with new proposals. On 30 July they will have an online exhibition at <https://www.steads-place.com/> and staff will be available to answer questions. Comments can be made until 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**ACTION: Sally will email the Drum Properties link round to everyone.**

### **Transport & Traffic**

The CCTT group is meeting the Trams Team this week. Several concerns need to be raised, particularly those of residents living on the route. The Trams team have learned a great deal from residents' contributions and the TRO process is not complete so this is a key time to contribute.

### **7. Any Other Business - Open Forum**

*EACC:* John Tibbitt reported that the new committee includes admin support and is aiming to connect more with community councils. LLCC does usually include an item on the agenda for EACC business, but not all do. Some CCs have suspended all activity since February/March. EACC has trying to clarify and communicate the issue of not having face-to-face meetings. There is some confusion about the legality of decisions reached in online meetings. EACC is consulting CEC on this.

The Edinburgh Partnership Board and Development Forum have been dominated recently by the recovery of social services from Covid, but a topic for the future is if/how Community Councils can help recovery and social care, and help sustain the volunteering that began during lockdown.

Edinburgh University is developing its community engagement strategy, and is keen to enable communities to access their expertise and to make education more accessible around the city.

The next EACC meeting will be 24 September. Chair thanked John for coming along to update us.

*Accounts and AGM:* The LLCC accounts for 2019-2020 are now audited and will be submitted to Ross Murray of CEC once procedures are clarified. LLCC may not be in a position to have a socially-distanced face-to-face AGM in the foreseeable future. Neither the Leith Community Centre or Duncan Place may be available for this purpose.

**ACTION: Arrangements for the AGM will be discussed at future meeting(s)**

**8. Date of Next Public Meeting: Monday 31 August 2020, 6.30pm, by ZOOM (tbc)**