

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

6.30pm

by ZOOM

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

Elected Representatives: Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey, Deidre Brock MP.

In Attendance: Nicola Gourley, Paul Scott, Daryl Teague and Simon Webster of Scott Hobbs Planning and Glencairn Housing / Teague Homes; 1 member of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Ben Macpherson MSP and Cllr Gordon Munro.

2. Presentation of Proposal of Application Notice ([20/00906/PAN](#)) 9-21 Salamander Place (Phase 6)

Phases 1 & 2 of the Ropeworks are occupied, 3 & 4 are near completion, and 5 & 7 are under construction. Representatives of the RopeWorks development presented an illustrated history and laid out the site massing options for Phase 6. This was difficult to take in as it was detailed and technical and also very rushed, showing four possible layouts, with buildings from 4- 6 storeys and more dense housing fitted in than was in the original planning permission. The site includes housing (3 bed family, 2 bed and 12 bed), a pocket park and allotments. The team have consulted with allotment holders and the school. All options will increase greenspace and pedestrian & cycle routes, and a deed of conditions will ensure the larger 3000m² park remains public. Affordable housing provision is above the legal minimum. Building materials will be high quality.

Meeting discussed several topics, such as the height of the buildings bordering Leith Links; protecting key views; community engagement; impacts on local transport infrastructure; and cycle access. It was agreed that councillors would need some time to evaluate it all and the team noted that they would be happy to answer future questions. An online public consultation will be held between 8th October 2020 and 15th October 2020, at www.ropemakerstreet.com with an Interactive Session on this website from 4pm – 8pm on 12th October 2020, before planning application is sought. Chair thanked the team for participating.

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3. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 31 August 2020

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

Matters Arising

Website: as tonight's agenda was heavy, Michael agreed to discuss this at a future occasion.

ACTION: Michael will circulate his proposals for purchases and website enhancement.

Reduced Holyrood school bus service: David had advised parents to pursue this through the school council and has not heard of further concerns. Cllr McVey thought the service is now functioning effectively.

Zoom: CEC is not shifting on its ban on Zoom on council equipment, so it is suggested that we use Microsoft Teams in future (which should also enable the police to take part).

ACTION: CC will run an internal 'trial run' to find out if there are any access problems for members.

4. Reports from Police Scotland, Elected Representatives (CEC, Holyrood, Westminster) as available

Police Scotland report - submitted in writing - attached below as Appendix 1

Elected Representatives

Deidre Brock MP - National issues: Many concerns from local constituents especially relating to the end of the furlough scheme and prospect of job losses. Westminster work is currently heavily dominated by Brexit legislation, particularly the Internal Market Bill and issues of uniform product standards throughout the UK (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, food).

Cllr McVey - Low Traffic Neighbourhood. The Council is proposing to create a new zone across the whole of North Leith that would cut through-traffic and protect residential streets for access only by residents e.g. closure of Links Gardens closure and possibly Coburg St at Ferry Road, possible pedestrianisation of the Shore, leaving all traffic to use only main arteries around the 'outside' e.g. Great Junction Street, Commercial Street etc. This idea is in very early stages and perhaps not greatly favoured by council officers at this stage due to the lack of general connectivity in Leith because of all the existing traffic restrictions. Meeting discussed congestion, rat runs, conflicts with tramworks, existing closures and diversions, and widespread disquiet about lack of consultation. Cllr Booth emphasised the climate and health crises, noting that consultation is undesirable because it leads to delays, e.g. long delay with the main city cycle route.

Reviews of Spaces for People: This is taking longer than expected but will go forward from October.

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Covid-19: cases have appeared in schools, but thanks to Public Health Scotland and efforts of school staff, none have so far been contracted at school. Police and Public Health Scotland are managing outbreaks amongst university students, and police and licensing are addressing pub closures.

Cllr Booth has focused on the work of getting homeless people out of B&Bs, and on finding ways to house asylum seekers who are not financially assisted. Other work has focused on eg. sewage discharges at Water of Leith, reporting to committee on (illegal) short-term lets, and efforts to protect trees along the tram route, including the Discovery Garden at Ocean Terminal.

5. Planning Matters

The sub-committee had a useful meeting with Drum Properties (*Steads Place* [20/01447/PAN](#)). Another PAN (*Bath Road / Salamander Street* [20/03799/PAN](#)) will be discussed soon. More details on Bath Rd are [here](#). Discussions are held regularly with the other CCs working together to try and get a Master Plan for development of the large Seafield area.

6. Transport & Traffic Matters

Local traffic congestion, the Links Gardens closure and tramworks were discussed above under 4. Noted that the name 'Transport and Traffic' also includes consideration for cyclists and pedestrians.

ACTION: Sally will circulate to find dates for a sub-committee meeting soon.

7. Parks and Green Spaces Matters

Holes on the Links: A contractor has been filling these in, but more are being excavated.

Arboretum on the Links?: David has put members of the public in contact with each other and with the Council Parks Dept. One difficulty is that the sandy soil is not conducive to growing many varieties of trees.

Academy Lofts Mural: This has received planning permission and a grant.

John Rattray statue: the fencing is down and the public are visiting and photographing the statue.

Friends of Leith Links – an email has been sent out to a number of stakeholder organisations.

ACTION: Abby will circulate a copy of the Friends email to members of CC.

8. Licensing – [Short Term Lets Consultation](#) (Scottish Government)

Legislation is to be put forward to the Scottish Parliament to allow for regulation of Short Term Lets. This consultation is about how best to address Planning and licensing issues. It is particularly important that Edinburgh residents contribute. The consultation documents are [here](#) and the

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deadline for responses is 16th October.

ACTION: LLCC should put in a collective response. Members will read the consultation and can respond as individuals if possible, alternatively can forward their comments to Michael for collation.

9. Community Engagement & Local Democracy

The next EACC meeting is postponed until 22nd October.

10. Open Forum - Leith Chooses motion

LLCC has successfully used funding from previous Scottish Government Community Choices grants to promote PB, support the running of successful annual voting events and to increase participation of minority ethnic communities. However, those funds are now exhausted. Funding is needed to continue the Leith Chooses website (a community based initiative, independent of the Council) and social media, which costs approximately £150 per year. Sally Millar proposed a motion that each of the three Leith CCs could contribute £50 per year. LLH & N has already agreed. After discussion, meeting unanimously agreed to contribute £50 or however much was needed in case of a shortfall by Leith Central.

11. AOCB

Short reports from sub-committees: circulating these between meetings is helpful. Ideally these will ensure more focused discussion.

Craigtinny & Duddingston by-election for new Ward Councillor: part of the ward falls within LLCC's area.

ACTION: Engagement Officer will write an item for the website encouraging people to vote.

12. Date of AGM and Next Public Meeting: Monday 26 October 2020, 6.30pm, by ZOOM

Community Police Report overleaf

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APPENDIX 1

Report from PC Lauren Mitchell, Leith Police Station

Please see below some of the activities we have carried out:

- Officers carried out plain clothes patrols in the Leith Kirkgate/Leith Walk area - Number of persons charged in relation to Class A and C drug offences. Persons have been reported and drugs seized.
- Whilst carrying out unformed beat patrols, officers sized approximately 200 Valium from a person suspected to be dealing within the Kirkgate. Person reported and drugs seized.
- Following youth complaints within Leith Links, officers have carried out a mixture of plain clothes and unformed patrols during peak times. Youths engaged with, and encouraged to frequent a more quiet area of the park away from residential housing.
- Plans underway for Halloween and Bonfire night - Mixture of preventative work, foot patrols, mobile patrols and Youth Work engagement.
- September 2020, a member of the public contacted Police to report that a toddler had fallen into The Water of Leith. Member of the public alerted nearby neighbours, who thereafter jumped into the water and rescued the child. Child was taken to hospital where they made a full recovery.

If you need any further information please let me know.