

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2020
6.30pm
online, via Microsoft Teams

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

Elected Representatives: Ben Macpherson MSP, Cllr Adam McVey, Cllr Gordon Munro, Tommy Sheppard MP.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Deidre Brock MP.

2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 28 September 2020

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

3. Reports from Police Scotland, Elected Representatives (CEC, Holyrood, Westminster)

Police Scotland

No Police Scotland Officers in attendance, no written report submitted. Chair noted that a Duke Street resident has asked questions about anti-social behaviour, such as people dealing / injecting drugs in the stairwells of Duke Street tenements.

ACTION: Chair will write to Police Scotland and elected representatives on this matter and will respond to the resident with contact details for local police.

Contact for any community police queries is edinburghcptnortheast@scotland.pnn.police.uk

ACTION: Engagement Officer will add these contact details to the website.

Elected Representatives

Tommy Sheppard MP noted that people can subscribe to his monthly community newsletter which is available at <https://www.tommysheppardmp.scot/> Casework has risen in the pandemic. Leith Links has many creative workers, freelancers and people working in hospitality, who have been given

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insufficient financial support from Westminster, many have contacted him and his team have been campaigning on their behalf. The lack of a Brexit deal and the Internal Market Bill have also been major issues as a threat to devolved powers.

Ben Macpherson MSP noted that a consultation has launched on free travel for young people under 19 years, accessible [here](#). Also, as Chair of the Seafield Stakeholders' Group, he emphasised his appreciation and admiration for the role LLCC has played in this work.

4. Confirmation of sub-committees and topic groups, and their conveners /leads

Meeting confirmed these for 2020-21. *Sub-committee conveners:* Parks & Greenspaces: David Igoe. Planning: Andrew Mackenzie. Travel & Mobility: Michael Traill. *Topic group leads:* Licensing: Michael Traill (could convene an ad hoc sub-group if/when necessary). Seafield sewage: Eileen Simpson & Jim Scanlon. Community Engagement & Website: Michael Traill.

5. Aims, Roles and Remits, recruitment of associate members

Seafield: Michael had set up an effective complaint form for the public on the website, and the campaign has been effective in that new funding has been agreed by ScotGov, meanwhile due to pandemic, Stakeholder meetings have been hard e to organise.

Parks & Greenspaces: a Friends group is needed but it is not practicable to call a public meeting.

ACTION: Michael will set up meetings with various sub-groups to discuss more use of the website.

Recruitment: All sub-committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting approved co-opting members of the community as associate members where they have specific skills to contribute.

6. Public Space Management Plan Consultation – deadline 23 November 2020

Jim and Sally met in March with Lindsay Grant, CEC Parks Programmes Manager, to raise concerns around consultation about major events in the Links. The Links is a valued greenspace for the local community rather than for commercial events. The proposed new approach seems to be for the benefit of organisers of events (and maybe for ease of administration, by the Council) rather than being in the interests of the community. The current consultation does not seem to be public, and many local stakeholders have not been sent the link. Have Councillors been consulted? Apparently, the public will be asked to respond in February-April 2021.

ACTION: Adam will liaise with Lindsay to ask that other Leith Links stakeholders are contacted.

ACTION: Michael, David and Sally will liaise for dates and organise an online meeting soon to discuss this, inviting a range of Leith Links stakeholders.

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7. Open Forum / AOCB

A Leith Links resident attended on behalf of Living Rent, the tenants union, to announce the launch of their Leith branch on 9 November and their Tenants' Manifesto for the Scottish elections.

Contacts are <https://www.livingrent.org/> and edinburgh@livingrent.org

ACTION: LLCC will publicise the launch.

Elected representatives: local issues

Covid: Cllr McVey noted that the public are supporting those Constitution St businesses which remain open. Covid cases are dropping in Edinburgh and although it is entering Tier 3, it is heading toward Tier 2, which would enable pubs and restaurants to open again.

Trams v. Discovery Garden: Cllr Munro noted that the confirmatory planning application for landscaping at the tram stop at Ocean Terminal has been controversial and may be revised, to preserve the Discovery Garden, possibly involving input by the Botanics staff. Engagement is ongoing at Stevedore Place, to try to retain the trees and the 'boulevard' aspect.

Citadel Arts Group: Cllr Munro commended their Senior Club and noted the Citadel AGM on 8 November.

EACC

Michael proposed nominating John Tibbitt as Chair due to his excellent work in turning the EACC around. Jim seconded the motion.

Action – Chair will send in nomination

Several LLCC members had attended the meeting on 22 October. There were guest speakers from Spaces for People (Dave Sinclair), Living Streets (David Hunter), Sustrans and New Town & Broughton CC (Simon Holledge). Most of the £5million from the Scottish Government has been spent. All the projects are designed to be temporary. Some have been less successful than others, and Cllr McVey agreed that the work on Gt Junction St had not had the effect desired. The CEC Transport committee is reviewing all the projects.

Leith Chooses

This is up and running for the coming year. Applications are open and invited for grants of up to £5000 by 11 December. There will be an online public meeting in November. Voting will be online only, in January 2021. Ethnic minority groups will qualify for a Boost Vote.

ACTION: Michael will add this to the website and Facebook pages.

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Water fountain

Scottish Water has installed a water fountain on the Links. This is an initiative that in principle LLCC would support, but LLCC were not consulted for instance on the best location. Similarly, although 'mini-forests' may be introduced thanks to an initiative from members of the public in consultation with Scott Thomson of CEC Parks Department, this will be imposed from 'top down' rather than in consultation with LLCC.

Chair thanked all attendees. Meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Date of next online public meeting: Monday 30th November 2020, 6:30pm