

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021 (February 2021 meeting)  
6.30pm  
online, via Zoom

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

**Elected Representatives:** Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey, Ben Macpherson MSP.

**In attendance:** Miles Wilkinson and Martyn Lings, Project Managers at City of Edinburgh Council Active Travel Team; 32 members of the public.

**Minute Taker:** Kay Goodall.

#### 1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gordon Munro, David Igoe.

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 25 January 2021

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

**3. Police Report** – Written report included below as Appendix 1.

#### 4. Leith Connections / Low Traffic Neighbourhood Plan

Chair introduced guest speakers, Miles Wilkinson and Martyn Lings. Miles began by drawing a distinction between the Spaces for People programme and these two new schemes, Leith Connections & Low Traffic Neighbourhood Plan. Spaces for People is a city-wide temporary response to the pandemic, whereas these two new Leith schemes are intended to be permanent and will go through a fuller process of consultation.

Phase 1 is the concept design proposals for a segregated cycle route from the Foot of Leith Walk to Ocean Terminal. The design drawings are available online and in paper copy,

Phase 2 will lay out proposals for a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in Leith. This will aim to reduce through-traffic, to enable everyday journeys to be made safely and more pleasantly by foot and bike. Some motor vehicle access will still be maintained for local homes and businesses. Leith has low car ownership compared to the rest of the city and nationally, so this is a move toward improving

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connections, particularly for the 50% in the area who don't have a car. The focus is not on closing roads, but rather on opening up the community and making it more inclusive for those who need wider pavements, benches to sit on, safer cycle paths, etc. The scheme will also link to other development projects in the area. This plan will evolve with public feedback and more general ideas about what might improve active travel in the area.

Community Engagement is open till 5 March. There will also be a meeting of a Community Reference Group that includes eg. schools, community councils and business organisations. They will also engage on known issues such as trams, traffic management, Lothian Bus routes, and feedback from the emergency services.

After presenting the plans to the public, there will be an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to enable a trial in autumn 2021. This will be monitored and public feedback will be sought before this becomes permanent (formal TRO needed).

### **5. Questions and Discussion**

A few Community councillors and members of the public had sent in written questions beforehand. Chair put some of these to Martyn and Miles, then threw the meeting open for further questions from the floor. A great many valuable points were discussed, covering the various needs of local residents and businesses, families, and people with disabilities, and engaging with key issues of parking, traffic management, active travel and pollution control. A summary of the discussion is included within Leith Links Community Council's response to the consultation, and is available at <http://www.leithlinksc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Leith-Links-CC-response-Leith-Connections-converted.pdf>

### **6. Next meetings**

There will be an extraordinary meeting on Monday 8 March 2021 to discuss the proposed Controlled Parking Zone for 'West Leith' (Easter Road / Lochend Road / Restalrig Road). See website for joining details.

Chair thanked Miles and Martyn and all the attendees, and encouraged everyone to take part in all the consultations, rather than just petitions, as the Council is focusing on the responses. Meeting ended at 8.05pm.

**Date of extraordinary public meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 6:30pm via Microsoft Teams**

**Date of next ordinary public meeting: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 6:30pm via Microsoft Teams**

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### APPENDIX 1

### Police Report

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**Leith Community Council Meeting, February 2021**

**Community Beat Officers: PC Kris O'Donnell and PC Lauren Mitchell**

**Theft of pedal cycles:**

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 Police Scotland saw a significant decline in the number of reports regarding theft of pedal cycles in the Leith Links area.

Uniformed and plain-clothed patrols continue in an attempt to recover any outstanding stolen pedal cycles and apprehend offenders real-time or retrospectively through comprehensive enquiries. Operation Agora continue to make positive enquiries in relation to stolen pedal cycles.

**Prostitution:**

Uniformed and plain-clothed Officers continue to patrol the Links in the evenings (often focusing on weekends) in order to engaged with street workers and deal with offenders appropriately. Community Officers have begun working alongside external agencies once again to make referrals and support those most vulnerable.

Police Scotland request any sightings of street prostitution be reported to police through 101 so that further enquiries can be conducted.

**Tram works:**

Tram works continue in the area of Constitution Street causing temporary disruption to the main road route.

**Allotments:**

No major issues identified at the site of both allotment areas.

Contact was made with COEC noise team at the end of 2020 regarding early morning excessive noise created by the Farmers Market as reported by local residents. This problem appeared to be caused by noise during the "setting up" period of the Farmers Market.

**Links Garden:**

Links Garden road still appears to be closed as instructed by COEC.

Police Scotland have no issues or opposition to this main route being re-opened as previously stated.

**Ongoing...**

Community Officers will be looking to work alongside St. Marys Primary School and Leith Primary School in respect of the re-opening of schools and any issues this may bring in respect of parking. PCs O'Donnell and Mitchell look forward to returning to both Primary Schools to carry out school visits, presentation days and assist with any upcoming events.

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