

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

MONDAY 31 MAY 2021

6.30pm

online, via Zoom

**Councillors Present:** Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Abby Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Chrissie Reid, Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill (Engagement Officer).

**Elected Representatives:** Councillor Chas Booth.

**In attendance:** Teresa Perchard (LLCC nominee), members of the public.

**Minute Taker:** Kay Goodall.

#### 1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair (Gail) Clapton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jim Scanlon Cllr Gordon Munro, Tommy Sheppard and Deidre Brock. A speaker from Enterprise Car Club was due to attend to give a presentation, following discussions at the CPZ meeting about offering positive alternatives to car ownership. At the last minute he was unable to attend due to a family emergency but hopes to come to a future meeting.

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 26 April 2021

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

#### 3. Report from Police Scotland

##### **Police**

Community Beat Officers PC Kris O'Donnell and PC Lauren Mitchell provided a written report.

*Beat Hunger Campaign:* this concluded in mid-May. It has been extremely positively received.

*School parking patrols:* officers are working with primary schools to enforce and educate drivers.

*Anti-social behaviour and drug misuse:* special dedicated patrols are working around St Mary's and Leith Primary Schools. Drinking and gatherings of large groups in the area are also being addressed.

*Prostitution plain-clothes patrol:* services by SACRO and Salvation Army have been restored, police have been operating patrols.

*Neighbourhood Watch Scotland:* police are encouraging residents to engage in this scheme.

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#### **4. Election / Co-option of new Community Councillors**

Teresa Perchard was nominated by Michael Traill, seconded by Sally Millar, for one of the vacant positions on LLCC. All councillors present voted in favour. Chair offered LLCC's congratulations to our newest community councillor.

One place remains unfilled. Three other people had expressed interest but two have withdrawn for practical reasons, another will be followed up.

Places remain open for representatives from local community organisations. Chair reiterated that members of the public are always welcome to attend the public meetings– you do not have to be a community councillor to participate in discussions and activities.

#### **5. Travel & Mobility matters**

**Low Traffic Neighbourhood** - The public consultation on these plans were due out today but have been delayed, so no discussion on this. Apparently they are issuing leaflets to residents before the website opens. LLCC + LH&N CC are planning to hold another extraordinary public meeting, on 8<sup>th</sup> June, to let local people hear and ask questions, but the speakers are still to be confirmed.

**CPZ** - The Traffic Regulatory Order (TRO) for the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) for Leith Walk and Leith is not yet open for consultation, possibly because it depends on the TRO for the tram route, which has been delayed.

**Integration of Leith traffic plans** - LLCC and Leith Harbour & Newhaven CC had jointly written to CEC with concerns about the amount of different traffic schemes that were being imposed on Leith all at once, and how they were not adequately integrated with each other. (Trams, CPZ 1 & 2, Spaces for People, Leith Connections, Easter Road junction etc.) Sally Millar, Jim Scanlon and 2 members of Leith Harbour & Newhaven CC attended a meeting with Paul Lawrence Head of Place on 11 May. The community councils had recommended a pause on schemes other than the tramworks, in order to let the effects (including unintended consequences) of one scheme be realised before introducing another. They had also asked for an integrated map of all the projects, and an integrated timeline showing the points at which the local community would be consulted. Neither of these have yet been issued.

**Salamander Place** – a member of the public raised concerns about the dangerous volume and speed of traffic on Salamander Place, forced to use this route and frustrated due to the closure of Constitution Street. Links Gardens, and by congestion on Salamander Street. No signage is in place to warn drivers of road closures around the area.

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Cllr Booth has raised this issue already with both the police and CEC. Pressure of work in the TRO pipeline has held up necessary improvements.

**ACTION: Cllr Booth will continue to pursue these matters with CEC.**

### ***Easter Rd temporary works***

There is a lack of bus stops at the bottom of Easter Rd, an area with many elderly or disabled users, and a lack of signage to explain what the roadworks are for. An unsuspecting passenger can be carried right over from Lorne Street to Great Junction Street (as some buses do not stop at the in between stop on Duke Street, and the Tesco stop is closed).

**ACTION: Cllr Booth will take this up with CEC, who are responsible for bus stops.**

### ***Loss of bus stops***

Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG) is alarmed by the increasing number of bus stops being removed / closed throughout the city, including Leith, not just for temporary roadworks but long term. This is for different reasons in different locations – Spaces for People, tramworks etc.. The distance to / between stops is not supposed to be more than 400 metres max, but some are more than 500m. Not everybody can walk that far.

## **6. Parks & Greenspaces**

### ***Update on Arboretum proposal***

The proposal for an arboretum of 84 trees from around the world on the Links has now gone to public consultation. The CC revised the survey questions to its satisfaction and the survey has been added to the CEC Consultation Hub, not just the ELGT site. Closing date is 18 June.

### ***Temporary toilets***

The Links are being extensively used for sports, leisure and social activities. Cllr Munro has informed us that temporary toilets are due to be installed in early June, next to the building in the Bowling Green area, to access water and sewers.

### ***Rats***

CEC Pest Control officers have visited the area of the Croft and laid traps.

***Bowling green campaign – July Picnic working group:*** a face-to-face meeting was agreed but numbers of participants have to be limited to eight, so it was agreed that Abby, David and Sally would attend.

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### **7. Reports from Elected Representatives**

Cllr Booth summarised his recent work.

*Bowling Green graffiti:* this has been removed and the old bowling green clubhouse painted, as a result of his request. Sally Millar thanked him for this effort, on behalf of the CC and park users.

*CEC affordable housing policy:* Cllr Booth has asked for a full assessment of how this is working for people on low incomes.

### **8. AOCB**

*Seafield:* it has been much better so far this year but smells have gone up in the recent hot weather, and complaints have been logged.

*AGM:* this will take place next month for half an hour before the start of the 'ordinary' public meeting.

**ACTION: Michael will produce the annual report and seeks feedback from subgroups by 11 June.**

Meeting ended at 7.45pm.

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**Date of AGM & next public meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 6:30pm via Microsoft Teams**