

MINUTES

MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021

6.30pm

online, via Microsoft Teams

Councillors Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer), Robert Cormack (Leith Rotary), David Igoe, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Teresa Perchard, Angus Hardie, Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson.

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Adam McVey.

In attendance: Murray McAdam (Enterprise Car Club), Steven Cuthill (CEC), Scott Thomson (CEC), Ross Woodside (Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspaces Trust), members of the public.

Minute Taker: Kay Goodall.

1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new member, Robert Cormack, representing the local interest group Leith Rotary. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Ben Macpherson MSP, Councillor Gordon Munro, Abigail Cunningham.

2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 28 June 2021

Proposed by Gail Clapton; seconded by Eileen Simpson. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

3. Presentation by Murray McAdam, Head of Business & Enterprise Holdings, Enterprise Car Club

Murray introduced Enterprise as the largest car club in the UK. Edinburgh is the second-largest member. It works with bikeshare, taxis, ferries and others, and is launching mobility hubs to connect with public transport. Enterprise has several bases and a branch currently located within the proposed Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN). He added that [funding](#) is available for people to scrap old petrol & diesel vehicles.

The floor was then thrown open for comments, questions and discussion.

Poorer access to car club vehicles in nearby Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) nearby: further spaces are needed / being discussed with CEC for these areas.

ACTION: Murray will find out how many members are in the Leith Links CC area.

Answer supplied: Car Club Members with Edinburgh Postcode=10,842, Car Club Members with EH6 Postcode=1,272. The number of Leith members therefore represents 11.7% of the Car Club Members in Edinburgh.

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Locating cars within the LTN: Enterprise aims to reduce second- or third-car ownership, rather than 'eliminating' all car ownership. Research suggests one car club vehicle replaces ten privately-owned cars.

Rental options: members can get a car for an hour or up to 7 days. Car Club operates alongside Enterprise car hire business (which can be advantageous for members wanting vehicles of different sizes/ for longer periods).

New locations: A TRO is needed to put a new club bay on public or council-owned land. Enterprise is actively trying to explore new locations. Cllr Booth noted that CEC is raising streamlining with the Scottish Government. CEC also plans to inform all residents in new CPZs about the club.

Car cleaning: The cars are treated with a product that tackles airborne disease, and are regularly cleaned also. No-one has contracted COVID19 due to driving a car club vehicle, as far as they know, during the pandemic.

Electric car charging: Enterprise has over 50 electric cars in Scotland, including at Waverley Station. A member can charge at any of the charging points. The mileage charge is only 4p/mile, but the biggest concern is finding charging points where cars can be based.

Chair thanked Murray for his very informative contribution.

4. Travel and Mobility

Controlled parking, cycle lane, LTN

Controlled parking in West Leith has now been put on hold and will be raised again in Autumn 2022. 77% of respondents objected (but Council still insists it will be necessary, due to 'migration' of parking from CPZ in Leith Walk & Leith).

The start of the LTN has been deferred due to the tram works, but the process may be restarted in a year's time. There will be a monitoring scheme. The CEC website has [reports](#) on Leith Connections and the LTN Consultation. Public support for the LTN was roughly 50/50. Businesses and people with disabilities / mobility issues were those most opposed to it.

Bus Service for Leith Links

Teresa Perchard proposed that LLCC contact Lothian Buses to ask for a meeting to discuss reintroduction of one of the Links bus services (No.1, No.12) or to introduce a new service to the Links. Motion agreed by the meeting

ACTION: Secretary will write to Lothian Buses

Tram TRO

This has gone through. LLCC had raised various concerns, but these had not been considered material. Good news is that the flowering cherry tree at St. Mary's Star of the Sea in Constitution Street will remain (though sadly too many other trees are going).

5. Presentation on the Leith Links Arboretum consultation, by Ross Woodside (ELGT), Scott Thomson (Parks, North East Locality, CEC) and Steven Cuthill (Parks & Greenspaces, CEC)

Ross thanked LLCC for feedback. They had received 285 responses to their online survey. They plan a theme of major tree species from each continent, including endangered species. Over half of respondents to the survey saw it as a top priority. Almost 90% support the plan, and over 70% thought the proposed location at the east end of the east Links was the right place, and liked the design. The majority also thought the size, species variety, and number of trees was about right, though some would prefer a focus on native trees. The proposed wildflower grassland and seating areas were most popular; gravel paths less so. Better wheelchair accessibility was seen as important. Over 90% would like to see more trees elsewhere in the Links, and wanted to see existing trees better looked after.

Concerns included potential vandalism, loss of greenspace, and the risk that CEC would not manage to provide adequate care and maintenance, as the Links has already suffered unsuccessful plantings. Leith Rules Golf Society asked for amendments to the design to prevent the loss of Holes 1 and 2 in its annual event, and to consider the ever-increasing canopy in future years when the trees have reached a greater height. The Society are ambassadors for Leith as well as for golf.

ACTION: Ross will share amended designs with LLCC.

The floor was then thrown open for comments, questions and discussion.

Suitability of types of gravel or bark for wheelchairs and pushchairs: if the team goes ahead with paths, it will consult on this with the CEC Access Panel. Pushchairs and prams cannot push easily through grass.

Access: if there are no buses and restricted car access due to the LTN, visitors from elsewhere may struggle to get to Seafield end of the Links.

Common good land: there was discussion over how the Confirmation Act applies to new trees, paths, signage and permanent displays, classroom seating etc. As seen with the John Rattray statue, it is not only new buildings that are constrained by the Act. Parks Dept. seemed to brush off this suggestion, but LLCC takes it seriously and will try to clarify this.

Full community consultation for the whole project: LLCC members stressed yet again that full community consultation is required for every aspect of the designs.

Approval process for building the education facility: Parks & Greenspace will apply.

Breakdown of responses for those who live in the area: the majority of respondents live in the area or use it frequently.

ACTION: Ross will find out whether this group were as strongly in favour as those who do not live nearby or visit often and will send details of this breakdown to LLCC.

Botanics sourcing: the Botanics has selected 15 trees that will be suitable for the climate, and the rest will be procured from British tree nurseries. Some will be relocated from a Portobello development.

Who is funding and who is in charge? CEC is in charge but no one person or department was identified. It is a joint venture with the Million Tree City project, ELGT and the Botanics, and the rest of the funding has been approved by CEC. It will be planted over several years. Concerns were expressed about whether funding might run out and the project fizzle out midstream?

Fitting within the masterplan for the Links: the arboretum is part of the current plan and future aspirations.

Care and maintenance: the Botanics will care for their own trees and the rest will be supported by Parks & Greenspace and perhaps also by volunteers, as elsewhere in the city.

Precedent for an arboretum in a public park: there have been other such projects elsewhere, such as London's Battersea Park, where the community maintain the trees.

ACTION: Steven will send details of similar ones to compare.

Chair thanked the team for their contribution.

6. Open Floor and AOCB

Bowling Greens: LLCC is running an [online survey](#), and has already had over 100 responses on the first day.

Ideas bank: Michael has created a page for this on the LLCC website but it is not showing the proposals submitted.

PAN for the Ocean Terminal redevelopment: leaflets have been sent out and comments are sought. There will be an exhibition in Ocean Terminal on 23 Sept.

Leith For Ever, Leith Market, 18 Sept: There will be walking tours and performances, with a ticketed [evening film event](#). The Leith Community Councils will (jointly) have a stall.

ACTION: Chair will call for volunteers and set up a rota.

Events on the Links - Application for funfair, 16-21 Sept, on West Links: this will end at 8.30pm. LLCC will not object to the application.

ACTION: Cllr McVey will check whether the temporary toilets can be kept open later for this.

Temporary toilets: CEC are looking into a permanent facility. The revamped Pavilion on the Croft may not provide this. The LLCC online survey shows overwhelming support for public toilets at the Bowling Green building.

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Save Our Care Homes demo, 14 Sept, City Chambers: a member of the public had asked LLCC to publicise this. Cllr McVey pointed out that it is not strictly speaking the council that wants to close these homes (he had voted against) but a decision of the Joint Health & Social Care Partnership plans because the units cannot be brought up to modern day standards.

Gulls nuisance: this is a national problem which is difficult for CEC to address.

Seafield Development: the recent Sounding Board meeting indicates that ground is shifting toward CEC treating new development as if it only affects Craigentiny. Councillors from surrounding areas have been removed from the consultation process by CEC. LLCC will continue to challenge this.

Seafield smells: there have been 23 notifications this month. Ben Macpherson MSP has put this on the agenda for the next stakeholders meeting. It is however unclear whether the LLCC online form is reaching Veolia as they have changed their email contact - to be investigated.

Daytime street drinking in the Kirkgate: this has increased, due to fencing which provides convenient seating, and has become even more intimidating to passers-by, now also hemmed in by fencing. As the police are not attending LLCC online meetings, it is harder to raise such issues.

ACTION: Chair will feed this back to the PS community officers and circulate any response.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Date of next public meeting: Monday 27th September 2021, 6:30pm via Microsoft Teams