**MINUTES**

**MONDAY 25th March 2022**

**6.30pm**

**online, via Microsoft Teams**

**Councillors and Members Present:** Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Abigail Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Barbara Kerr (Leith Festival), Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Teresa Perchard, Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill (Engagement Officer).

**Elected Representatives**, Councillor Adam McVey, Councillor Gordon Munro

**In attendance:** Guest Speakers: Ben Ritchie of Lothian Buses, Miles Wilkinson of Leith Connections/ Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood project team. 5 members of the public.

**Minute Taker:** Mary Gordon

**1. Welcome, Apologies**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Tommy Sheppard MP, Ben MacPherson MSP, Cllr Chas Booth, Robert Cormack (Leith Rotary).

**2. Adoption of Minutes of last meeting on Monday 28 March 2022**

Minutes Proposed by Gail Clapton; seconded by Michael Traill. Available at <https://leithlinkscc.org.uk/>

**3. Police Report** – this had been circulated in advance. No police attending tonight.

**4. Update on Leith Connections / Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood:** Miles Wilkinson(City of Edinburgh Council) reported that a permanent TRO for Great Junction Street and the cycle route will be brought in in September. An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) will be advertised and the final version of the route and plans will be made public and open for comments in the next few months. Leith Connections Project will carry out community engagement via leaflets and meetings and there will be feedback reports to the Council’s August Transport and Environment Committee. The design shape of phase 1 has started and the A Route TRO after consultation in March. The contracting process has already started. After the report back to the committee in August the work will start in September. Meetings with St Mary's Primary, Leith Primary, HolyCross, Leith Links team and the Rotary are planned.

A question was raised about coordination with the CPZ plans. Leith Connections Low Traffic Neighbourhood cannot speak for the CPZ. More information on the CPZ can be obtained from Andrew McKay at the Council.

Gordon Munro said he had representations from Jim Wilkie about issues of deliveries and uplift from Wilkie’s pub and other local businesses concerned about the LTN

The community council is unhappy about the lack of consultation and also about starting the work before the tram works are finished.

Johns Place - allocation of roadspace and art work is in consultation with Sustrans. Budget for art works is about £2-£5,000, this comes from Sustrans not the Council (check?)

Issues around Dock Place - need for reinstatement of the cobbles and the refreshing of the double yellow lines. Cycle racks are needed - suggestion if done sympathetically to the locality ie boats would be more characterful and acceptable.

Feedback and objections would be monitored from public during the Experimental Traffic Order, market research would be undertaken. A monitoring programme will be in place to evaluate results.

Angus Hardie enquired as to what exactly the promised ‘monitoring’ would consist of – would it be objective? Miles Wilkinson stated that it would be a mix of qualitative and objective factors. Ie noise, traffic levels against baseline data.

Cllr Adam McVey stressed that visual images of the plans would be helpful (necessary) in order to bring local people on board. The meeting agreed with him that the plans should be changed to close Coburg Street at the Ferry Road end rather than at the Sandport Bridge / Dock Street end.

There is an urgent need to improve cycle route between Leith Links and the Water of Leith. Miles Wilkinson replied that apart from reduced traffic, there are currently no specific measures are being put in to facilitate this.

In terms of communicating with local residents, there will be a newsletter. The LLCC felt that more and better communication is needed, and encouraged more newsletters regarding the forthcoming TRO.

**5. Lothian Buses -** Ben Ritchieof Lothian Buses (LB) said they would very much like to get back to having buses along Leith Links but this is currently held up by (1) their need to prioritise getting passenger numbers back up, to build up the finances to support development of new routes etc., nd (2) their current acute driver shortage. He thought there might be a service at the very latest spring next year (2023) but hopefully before. The plan is for a bus to and from the city centre, including two-way traverse of Links Gardens, Links Place, Queen Charlotte Street (north end), to Bernard St.

(The other legs of the route are not finalised yet. The bus could go on into the city via Restalrig Road, Lochend, Meadowbank etc. or possibly via Easter Road. Probably not Leith Walk. Undecided as yet where it would go after Bernard Street.)

There would need to be a safe (signalised?) crossing at the junction with Salamander Place. A bus gate could be installed so that only buses and no other traffic use Links Gardens.

The use of Duncan Place / Johns Place was brought up as part of the route but Ben advised that it was not desirable because of the busy junction at the Duke Street end, and also the angle of the turn from Duke Street which had already caused problems for the No. 1 bus when it was rerouted that way.

Stops along the route can be placed near junctions to facilitate access for residents of new developments down the side streets.

Discussion of The Shore being used as a bus route – most people would prefer to see the Shore pedestrianised. Ben said Lothian Buses see it as inevitable as a bus route as the population is very dense around that area and passengers need easy access to a bus. The Custom House Bus stop is the busiest stop in all of Leith.

Chair thanked both Ben and Miles for their informative and useful reports.

**6. Other Updates**

***Licensing* –** Michael Traill reported there has been an application for a licence for a coffee van on Leith Links, between Crops and Pots and the tennis courts. It was agreed that the CC will object to it mainly because of concern about a vehicle pulling the trailer over grass twice a day. Licencing hours applied for are 8-8. There will also be comments made about risk of increased litter.

**Action: Michael Traill will draft response.**

There was further discussion about the ice cream van currently driving on to the Links on warm days. He apparently insists that his street trader’s licence permits him to trade in a park (it doesn’t), he is known to the Council.

Frustration was expressed about how the various bodies are not coordinated (Licensing, Events in Parks, Parks and Greenspaces etc.) the criteria for being permitted to drive on the grass should be clear, and enforced.

***Planning* –** Andy Mackenzie reported that there is an application for HMO licence for Abbots Guest House for 50. Cllr. McVey said that they would be unlikely to be turned down as will provide long term accommodation.

9 St John's Place - a listed building wanted to extend through the back to garages with a glass walkway at 1st floor level. Historic Environment Scotland has already made comments on the interior features being at risk. The full application is not up yet.

Chandler Crescent - STL application already several objections from the other residents in that building.

Cruden Homes planning 99 flats on Salamander St. Concern about the pollution levels locally and having children living the flats. There is a consultation online for only a few hours on Thursday 28th April.

**7. Community Activities**

A stall for the three Leith Community Councils has been booked for the Leith Festival Gala Day on Sat 11th June. The cost will be shared between Leith Links, Leith Central, Leith Harbour & Newhaven CCs. Volunteers for setting up gazebo, taking down and manning it for a few hours on the day would be appreciated, please get the date in the diary.

A ‘Big Lunch’ (community meeting and eating together) is being planned for Sunday 19th of June (still within Leith Festival week), with partners such as Duncan Place, Leith Festival, and maybe others. There will be no cost to the LLCC although we may choose to lend resources, eg. folding table. The meeting agreed that the Community Council should commit to being a partner in organising and taking part, voluntarily.

**8. LLCC Online Hustings, 26th April 2022**

All but two of the candidates are coming. and 70 people have registered to attend. There are already many questions to be put to candidates.

**8. Councillor Gordon Munro is retiring –** On behalf of the Community Council and the residents of the Leith Links area, Sally Millar thanked Councillor Gordon Munro for his devotion to serving the people of Leith, for his many years of service in the ward, and for all the great campaigns he’s fought on our behalf. The Community Council wished him a happy and healthy retirement. Councillor Munro replied by praising the effort and work of volunteers such as Community Councillors, and reviewing how much he’s enjoyed his many and varied projects in the area.

**9, 10, 11.**

**Update from elected representatives, Open Floor and AOCB**

***Leith Festival*** - Barbara Kerr said Leith Festival is currently encouraging people to book stalls, and to take part in the pageant on Gala Day on 11th June, see details and forms on their website <https://leithfestival.com/>

***Defibrillator for Leith (Police Station Queen Charlotte Street* –** Local resident Duncan Stanners had supplied information about defibrillators, but unfortunately it seems that there are no plans for any of the ones that St John Scotland are currently ‘placing’ to come to Leith.

**Action: Jim to contact the Minister to see who paid / pays for the one the South Leith Parish Church Halls.**

**Action: Jim, Scanlon, Andy Mackenzie will form a sub group to look into possible funding for this (purchase and also ongoing maintenance etc.).**

***Seafield Sewage Works:*** Eileen Simpson reported that there has been more or less non-stop sewage stinking over the past few weeks, especially affecting the East Links, Seafield and the Pirniefield area, which is very disappointing, in the light of what had been felt to be positive news of promised improvements, recently. She no longer sees how many other complaints have gone in, in addition to her own.

**ACTION: The email contact list for circulation of complaints will be updated (Michael / Sally)**

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**Date of next public meeting: Monday 30th May 2022, 6:30pm, online.**

**This will be the AGM, followed by a shorter ‘ordinary’ meeting.**