

Welcome!

Once again we present to our community our Annual Report.

Throughout the last year we have kept you all updated with our work by posting information on our website & social media channels, as well as through our monthly public meetings but this Annual Report is an opportunity bring together some of those updates into one easy to access space.

Our Community Council continues to work hard for our local community and we welcome the opportunity to meet with & hear from as many people as possible. Please do come along to one of our meetings, virtual or in person over the next year as we are here to represent the views of everyone in our community, not just the those who shout the loudest or come to the most meetings.

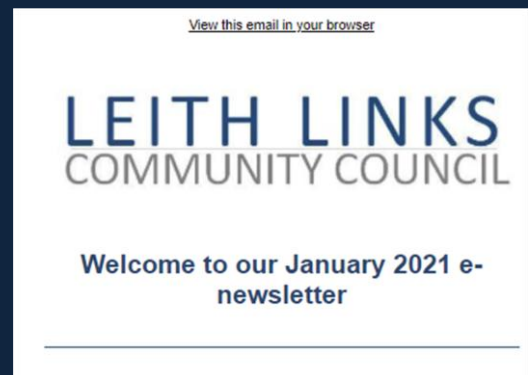
We'll share our annual report on our website, social media channels and in our quarterly e-newsletter but please do feel share our annual report with your friends, colleague and neighbours if you feel they would be interested.

Inside this annual report...

In this years annual report we have included reports on...

- Chairperson report
- Secretary report
- Treasurer report
- Engagement Officer report

Sign up to receive our quarterly e-newsletter



Around six hundred people have signed up to receive our quarterly e-newsletter straight into their mail.

Sign up today! Each issue contains a link to unsubscribe if you change your mind!

www.leithlinksc.org.uk/enewsletter

Chairperson Report – Jim Scanlon MBE

The past year has been difficult for us all as we have had After two years of lockdowns and restricted measures it's a welcome relief that we're now back to some form of normality. We can now enjoy a holiday or go out for a meal with friends or a drink in a local bar.

I would like to thank our team of volunteer Community Councillors who give up their time to represent you over a range of issues including planning, traffic, licencing, parks, Seafield Sewage Treatment works and many, many other issues.

The Community Council continues to comment on planning applications for large new housing developments in our area. Many brown field site areas are still to be developed over the next few years which will lead to a significant increase in the population of North Leith. We will continue to demand infrastructure to support new residents including better bus services, access to health care and education for any children to make it a safe a pleasant place to live.

Later this year the city council will introduce their Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) plans for North Leith. We had asked that the implementation of LTN, Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) and Leith Connections should be paused until the tram works were completed and trams running smoothly, but unfortunately, Council Officials have decided to move forward with LTN to be introduced in September 2022.

Leith Links Community Council will monitor the impact of the changes for residents that we have been told are supposed to reduce traffic through our local streets while making it a safer environment to live in. We will continue to ask for better engagement with residents by the Council/Sustrans teams dealing with each project so that they make us aware in advance of road closures.

You'll already have noticed the increased traffic on the main arteries through Leith; Duke Street, Great Junction Street and Salamander Street. When the LTN is introduced, LLCC suspects that additional traffic will be

pushed on to these routes and rather than making things better will increase pollution levels.

The mantra from the council is walk, cycle or wheel but not all of our residents are capable of doing any of these activities. Leith has a large number of elderly or infirm people who need access to a reliable public transport system and the Community Council will continue to campaign for a better service on our much-loved Lothian buses.

For the moment we continue to host our monthly meetings online by Zoom or Teams but with the good news that Leith Community Centre is now fully open again, we will try to have some 'live' public meetings. Having said that, we have had much better attendances over the past two years as local residents seem to find it easier to join online meetings from home than to come along in person.

As Chair I continue to represent the community on the Seafield Stakeholder Group with fellow community councillor, Eileen Simpson. In February this year we met with Scottish Water who explained their plans to spend £15 million on improvements to the plant to reduce odour emissions by covering areas that have already been identified over the last 30 years as being the main sources of odours. This is described as 'No Regrets' funding to provide improvements until work commences in 2030 on a new state of the art sewage treatment works as promised by the Scottish Government. The Community Council welcomed the current spending and with your help reporting any issues through our reporting tool on the CC webpage will continue to make your voice heard with Scottish Water.

Best wishes

Contacting us by email...

It's easy to get in touch with us, simply send us an email
- contact@leithlinksc.org.uk.

Secretary Report – Sally Millar

As Secretary, my job is to keep communications and information flowing efficiently, and, with the Chair, help to manage meetings.

As usual, we have held monthly meetings that are open to interested members of the public (apart from December)). In the course of the past year we have hosted a number of interesting and informative ‘visiting speakers’ at our meetings, including from Edinburgh City Council (re Controlled Parking Zones, Leith Connections and Low Traffic Neighbourhood, and Bin Hubs), Lothian Buses, Living Rent Association, Enterprise Car Club, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspaces Trust). We are glad that members of Police Scotland ‘s Community Policing team have recently managed to attend some of our meetings in person, after a long gap, and send in regular summary reports.

Some members of the Community Council have met with external bodies, such as the Tram Team (monthly), and the Sounding Board for development along the Seafield-Portobello shoreline strip. We are also represented and work closely with the Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG), and Leith Chooses.

We organised several community meetings online to discuss the future of the derelict building and the bowling green area of the Links. We hosted, in partnership with Duncan Place, and with Leith Festival volunteers, a very successful (and hot!!) ‘Community Picnic’ on Leith Links in July 2021, to bring the community together and also to collect more views from locals and park users about the plans. Since then, as

Secretary, I have been attending meetings of a ‘Leith Links MasterPlan Working Group’ and the first draft of the resultant plan (which incorporates many of the ideas brought forward by our community in the course of last year) is about to go out to public consultation. However there is still a questions mark over who will pay for operationalising these plans...

We welcomed two new Community Councillors in the course of the year, Barbara Kerr representing the community group Leith Festival, and Robert Cormack, representing Leith Rotary.

We continue to work very closely with our neighbouring body, Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council, who share many of the same concerns as ourselves especially with regard to Planning issues and traffic / transport / parking issues.

Our Ward Councillors Adam McVey. Chas Booth and Gordon Munro usually attend our meetings and we are very grateful to them for their input and all the follow up work they put in on our behalf, in between times. In April, we said goodbye and a huge and heartfelt ‘Thank You’ for all his many years of devoted Ward 13 work to Councillor Gordon Munro as he steps down into retirement. We now welcome newly elected Scottish Labour Councillor Katrina Faccenda.

Sadly, our stalwart Minute Taker Kay Goodall resigned this year due to ill health, so our thanks and good wishes go to her.



Follow us on Twitter

We regularly post community information as well as Community Council updates.

Treasurer Report – Gail Clapton

We have two bank accounts, one is the 'main' LLCC account and the other is a 'project account' which is used exclusively for Leith Chooses. Both of these accounts have been examined and signed off as accurate by an independent scrutineer.

The main Leith Links Community Council Account balance stood on 31 March 2022 at £1663.82. The only income was the annual grant from the City of Edinburgh Council, and a donation of £100 from a member of the public. The main outgoings were for Third Party Public Liability insurance, which is obligatory; fees paid to our Minute Taker, and website costs.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022
LLOYDS TSB TREASURERS ACCOUNT 86403060

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Annual Grant from CEC	£837.74	Insurance	£119.06
From Brian Graham	£100.00	Minutes	£280.00
Web Support refunded from other acc	£16.82	Donation to EACC	£15.00
		from incorrect acc	£16.82
		Website Costs	£28.76
		ICO Charge	£35.00
		Domain Name	£28.76
		Picnic Day expenses	£151.98
Total Income	£954.56	Total Expenditure	£675.38
Bank Balance b/f	£709.26	Bank Balance c/f	£988.44
TOTAL	£1663.82	TOTAL	£1663.82

The Leith Chooses Account had no income, and all outgoings were to cover website costs. This account is slowly running down as no new grants have been obtained in recent years.

LLCC Project Account #75396062
Leith Chooses account

INCOME (IN)		Apr-21	to	Mar-22	EXPENDITURE (OUT)		
BANK Date		Income		BANK online pay	Details	Expenditure	Category
1.4.2021	Starting Bank Balance	175.67		13.07.21	To main LLCC account (adjustment, paid from LLCC main a/c in error)	16.82	Admin/promotion
					(web site costs for April, May, June 2021)		
				13.07.21	Michael Traill expenses (adjustment to total for web site costs April - June 2021)	8.35	Admin/promotion
				25.11.21	Michael Traill expenses (domain name renewal and webcosts for July, August, September, October, November 2021)	61.83	Admin/promotion
	Total Income	0.00			Total Expenditure	87.00	
	Start bank balance	175.67			Bank Balance c/f	88.67	
	TOTAL	175.67			TOTAL	175.67	
				NOTES	The only outgoings were to Michael Traill, for website fees See longer NOTES in file for clarification of adjustments made to payments		

Engagement Officer Report – Michael Trail

As a Community Council we have worked to engage with our community as best we can despite the increasing workload of our volunteer Community Councilors and the small size of our annual funding from the local authority.

Website – We continue to utilise our popular hyperlocal website to share information with our community both in relation to the work of the Community Council itself, but also other useful local information such as updates from the local authority. We also continue to use our website as a tool for gathering information from our community such as asking website visitors to comment on the website providing views on licensing applications or reporting concerns around odour from Seafield Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Twitter & Facebook – 1,425 people follow us on Twitter with 1,975 people doing so on Facebook. We continue to use our social media to share information and to seek information from our community.

Quarterly E-newsletter – Nearly 700 people subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter 15 people subscribe to our new quarterly e-newsletter which we introduced in the last couple of years. As we are emerging from Covid we now need to consider how we can make our e-newsletter available offline.

Generally, our Community Council continues to work hard to engage with our community and seeks to be creative about how we do this, and how we expand our reach. One example being our recent virtual hustings in May, not only did lots of people take part any of whom had not engaged with the Community Council previously but many agreed to sign up to our newsletter to ensure an ongoing link with us.

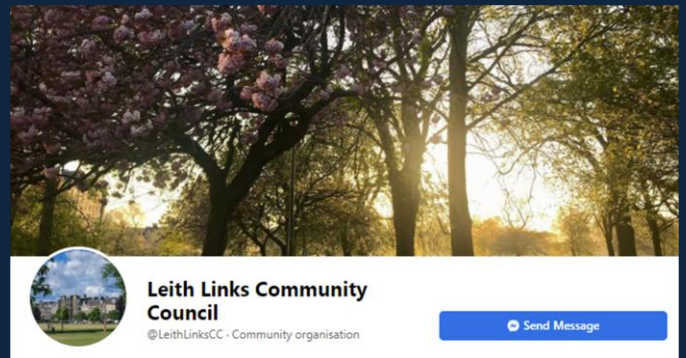
We'll continue to engage with our community as best we can. We're looking forward to a strong presence at the Leith Festival Gala Day and the upcoming Leith Big Lunch Community Picnic, both on Leith Links in coming

weeks where we hope to catch up with those we know, and meet the many expected new faces.

You of course can help us to engage with our community and represent you all as best we can by sharing our social media posts and forwarding on our e-newsletter to your contacts.

It is also worth noting that as a Community Council we have continued over the last year to call upon those with intentions of change in Leith to have genuine & meaningful consultation with our community. This is not because we are against change but because we want any change which is proposed to happen to be influenced by our community. This could be around planning applications, changes to road layouts or refuse collections for example. All affect us, and we should all rightly have a say, should we wish to, in shaping our local area.

Follow us on Facebook



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