

MINUTES

MONDAY 30 MAY 2022

6.30pm

online, via MS Teams

Present:

Community Councillors: Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Robert Cormack, Abigail Cunningham, Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Barbara Kerr, Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Eileen Simpson, Michael Traill (Engagement Officer), Christine Reid

Elected Representatives: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Katrina Faccenda

Members of the Public - 6

Minute Taker: Mary Gordon

1. Welcome, Apologies

Chair Gail Clapton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Tommy Sheppard MP, Ben MacPherson MSP, Adam McVey, Jim Scanlon, Teresa Perchard.

The Chair welcomed newly elected Ward 13 Councillor Katrina Faccenda (Scottish Labour)

2. Minutes of last meeting (25th April 2022) had been circulated.

Minutes were adopted Proposed by David Igoe and seconded by Abigail Cunningham

A report from Police Scotland Community Police Officers had been circulated.

Councillor Katrina Faccenda spoke about her new position. She's not taking any lead positions on Council committees and is concentrating on being a ward councillor. She's already done several walk arounds in the area including one with 'Living Streets' (re LTN) in particular. She is concerned particularly with the state of the communal bins and the botched roll out of bin hubs. She has had many emails from constituents regarding the 22 bus. She will be pursuing all of this.

3. Community Council Sub-Committee Leads.

David Igoe -- Parks and Green Spaces

Andrew Mackenzie – Planning

No specific Lead - Travel and Mobility

Teresa Perchard - Bins and Street Cleanliness

No Lead - Licencing (Michael Traill is not continuing with this)

4. Update - Travel and Mobility - Lothian Buses

Cllr. Chas Booth said he had also had lots of constituents contacting him regarding the 22 bus not coming to Leith. He's asked LB for a meeting about the withdrawal of the 22 from Leith, and about a the proposed service to the North of the Links to replace the 12. No response so far but has asked for a meeting with all 3 ward councillors and community councils.

Sally Millar thought LRT was very aware of the issue and reported from last month's meeting that Ben Ritchie seemed very positive 'in theory' - but a bus for the north side of the Links is unlikely before Spring next year due to financial revenue concerns and driver shortages, as well as tramworks. It was noted that no bus means there are issues of safety particularly for women at night having to walk across the Links. Concern about No 22 is that it is the only direct link between Leith and the west of the city: removing it means increased journey times and increased costs for passengers to have to change buses, and also making it more difficult for older and less able passengers who have to walk between bus stops. Another bus grievance is the lack of a service to the Western General Hospital when Leithers are generally referred there rather than to RIE.

Angus Hardie complained that the process for getting new routes was opaque, not an open and transparent process. LRT is apparently not accountable.

Other issues include diversions which are not highlighted at bus stops or on the app, making it very difficult for people to plan routes or know where to pick up a bus. There are astonishing delays on all journeys. Chrissie Reid reported 2 hours on a bus from Polwarth to Leith. She confirmed lack of bus to Western General Hospital is costing her a fortune in taxi fares as she is currently attending there for regular treatment sessions.

The CC agreed to make bus services a major focus of community engagement at the forthcoming Gala Day stall; a petition will be designed.

The whole transport system is broken due to road works, road closures, and tramworks. Most of the issues with the buses are not the fault of LB. The Council does not appear to coordinate over road works carried out by themselves, tramworks and third party companies, and do not enforce conditions about safety, time scales, alternative routes etc. Cyclists just have to try to avoid the most congested routes.

5. Other Updates

Licensing – see item 3 - A response has been submitted ee the food and drink waggon on Leith Links but no response. Chas confirmed that the Licensing Committee has not been meeting regularly but he would enquire about what was happening. Also he will report about the opening date of the public toilets on Leith Links.

Planning – A Pre Application Notice (PAN) has been submitted regarding Forth Ports' plan for lots more new housing in the docks ('Harbour 31'). There is a 3 way meeting with the developer and the 2 community councils - Jim Scanlon will attend for LLCC. Edinburgh Council will gain about £1 million in Council Tax from this development, but for the local community, the big issue is lack of any new infrastructure - transport, education, doctors, dentists etc.. Again

the public consultation meeting is online which means there can be no networking between individuals and groups from the community – when will developers get back to face to face consultations sessions?

An application for a licence for tattoo parlour on Salamander St. has been lodged. No objections were voiced.

6. Community Activities

Gala Day on Leith Links 11th June. A stall has been booked to be shared with Leith Central and Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Councils. Need helpers to put up and down and man the stall throughout the day – a list will be circulated.

Also discussed ideas for activities on the day – e.g. leaflets, Bus petition, attract new Councillors?

Big Lunch 19th June - discussion around weather and possible relocation to the community centre if raining.

7. Open Floor

Michael Traill brought up that no Ward 14 councillors came to LLCC meetings and invites should be sent to the newly elected team.

Local residents Don & Izzy wanted to welcome Katrina and advised her to check her spam folder!

David said the grass was not being mowed between trees in the new Arboretum, making it difficult to access. He understood that the Bowling Green building is being used as store by Earth in Common, and Sally Millar queried this as others have been told it cannot be used (unsafe, no light inside, for one thing).

9. AOCB

Michael Traill announced that he was resigning as a Community Councillor as of this meeting. Acting Chair Gail Clapton led tributes saying how much he would be missed and that the CC would be very sad to see him go. Sally Millar also thanked Michael for all the background work he has done for many years, especially with regard to the website and technical matters.

Sally Millar will pick up the work of Engagement Office and Licencing for the moment, in the hope that someone else will come forward later to take this on.

There are now 2 vacancies. There was discussion of how to attract new candidates for the Community Council (suggestions included notice board on Leith Links, local Whatsapp groups and FaceBook pages. Also Living Rent AGM meeting next week might be a good recruiting ground and the Gala Day.

Gail Clapton had done an afternoon shift 'ride around' with two Leith Community Police Officers and reported it very interesting.

Date of next public meeting: Monday 27 June 2022, 6:30pm, online