

# LEITH LINKS

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**6:30 pm, online via MS Teams**

**Councillors and Members Present:** Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Robert Cormack (Leith Rotary), Angus Hardie, David Igoe, Barbara Kerr (Leith Festival) Andrew Mackenzie, Sally Millar (Secretary), Teresa Perchard, Christine Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson.

**Elected Representatives:** Councillors Chas Booth, Katrina Faccenda

**Minute Taker:** Mary Gordon

**Members of the public - 6**

#### **1. Welcome, Apologies**

Chair Jim Scanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Tommy Sheppard MP, Ben MacPherson MSP, Councillor Adam McVey

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes**

Proposed by Andy Mackenzie and seconded by Teresa Perchard. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>

**Matters Arising – (re Para 6)** Jim Scanlon had contacted Ross Woodside of Greenspaces Trust. They had already been thinking about signage for the trees in arboretum and will get back to Jim about this.

**Re Para 9** - Amy Fairburn has volunteered to fill one of the two vacancies on the Community Council. She can be co-opted immediately, until the next formal election (2023 or 2024). Amy introduced herself briefly. Originally from South Africa, she has lived in our area in Leith for several years now, and works in communications in an international charity working to prevent / reduce deforestation. Sally Millar formally proposed that LLCC co-opt Amy Fairburn, seconded by Angus Hardie, and the motion was passed unanimously. She did not volunteer for any particular role at the moment but her skills and interests lie in the Comms area (mainly done by Sally at present, has in the past been part of Engagement Officer role, plenty of opportunities for new ideas and actions). Chair formally welcomed Amy as a new member of the CC.

**3. Police Report** – Written report circulated. Cllr Katrina Faccenda reported a lot of contact from local constituents regarding anti-social behaviour, concerning as the police seem so under-resourced.

#### **4. Travel and Mobility**

*Lothian Buses* - Sally Millar drew attention to the ongoing correspondence with LB, copied and published on website regarding: lack of consultation regarding the rerouting of the 34/49/21/25; refusal to discuss the change and wrongly implying that LLCC asked for these changes. Lothian Buses are apparently not prepared to engage at all and will not

discuss. However they did say they would monitor and review the changes. Chair questioned LB's claim that they had 'reached out' to 22, 000 households - nobody knows how, where or when, as there were apparently no leaflets. Attention was drawn to the No. 16 and its route. Without the 22, the 16 is the only bus going to the west end. The bus is infrequent and the stops seem to be very widely spaced out, and the bus is always packed by Sandport as it is used by the Ukrainians living on the boat (which Robert Cormack thought LB had not factored in), so that there is no room for passengers trying to board further up the Leith Walk.

*Street Lighting* - There is a serious problem on Salamander Place, where three lights are out, leaving the street in deep darkness, which is very unsafe. Jim has seen pedestrians reduced to using their phones as torches. Recently there was a robbery and assault on Salamander St. The problem has been reported to the Council, but nothing seems to have happened so far. Councillors agreed to follow this up.

*Controlled Parking Zones* - Jim reported he was still unable to find the street plans for Leith CPZ, in spite of asking almost everyone including, most recently, Paul Lawrence, Head of Place. Chas said that the CPZ will have to go through a legal process, then introduction of that and Low Traffic Neighbourhood will be gradual, but perhaps before Christmas.

The 'West Leith' Plans (ie south of Leith Links) are on hold until the Leith phase is assessed. Gavin Brown is the Officer in Charge of Parking.

**ACTION: LLCC will write to invite Gavin Brown to talk at next meeting, in October.**

## **5. Bins & Street Cleanliness**

Teresa reported that communal bins look better and tidier and seem to have been cleared around here fairly quickly after the strike compared to other areas. The metal hoops continue to be a mystery – are they to stop bins being removed, to prevent car parking, or...? Andy Mackenzie brought up Coalfield Lane which is particularly bad at the moment. Katrina said she has already emailed regarding landfill pickup - it seems access into the lane is a problem. Teresa said that Burns St. is always bad for bins. Two of the bins have been removed, and usually there is a heap of bin bags and Park View Hotel waste around the bins.

**ACTION: Teresa and Cllr Katrina Faccenda will meet and do a 'walkaround' of hubs in the area.**

**ACTION: Teresa will send a deputation to next Transport Committee who are apparently open to a review of location of hubs**

## **6. Parks and Green Spaces**

Sally and David Igoe can't make the upcoming LL Masterplan Working Group meeting, so Jim will go.

Toilets on the Links will be closed on the 28th of October and removed shortly afterwards.

**ACTION: Councillors will check and confirm date of toilets closing.**

Teresa brought up the issue of parking in parks. It is too frequent, there needs to be stronger rule enforcement and penalties for this.

Gail reported coming across a group of local residents on the Links with a table campaigning for better lighting on the Links. Trees are obscuring the lights in some places- can they be pollarded?

Robert said that the Leith Rotary members might help with bulb planting on the Links

**ACTION: Sally will write to Scott Thomson Parks Dept. to ask about trimming trees obscuring lights, and also about getting some bulbs for planting on the Links.**

## **7. Planning**

Andy Mackenzie reported on the Consultation for Harbour 31 Residential Development in the east docks. He inspected the exhibition in Ocean Terminal - 800 new homes for planning permission in principal. He reports it looks like every other development along the waterline, ugly, lacks imagination, high density, too high, query over cycle path connectivity, worries over transport links and other infrastructure. It could take seven years to complete. There is a meeting and a deadline for comments on 4 October.

**ACTION: Jim and Andy to attend meeting. Andy Mackenzie will submit comment from LLCC**

*Seafield* - Angus reported disappointingly little progress on the Masterplan although the memorandums of understanding between Council /Community Councils non disclosure agreements have been signed. Funding has been agreed to have a professional adviser for the CC's, and this will be architect Malcom Fraser. Porty Artwalk had a very interesting talk on sea level rises which is an issue of increasing urgency. Are developers taking appropriate notice of this issue?

**ACTION: Amy Fairburn offered to get in touch with a development org she knows of, Adaptation Scotland regarding rising sea levels.**

## **8. Seafield Sewage**

Eileen will go to the Seafield Stakeholder Group on Friday. Smells have been bad this year, maybe not the worst ever but consistently high levels of complaints. Sally proposed that Eileen Simpson be formally nominated to Scottish Water as their 'expert nose' on the ground. Agreed unanimously. Discussion about next steps. Scottish Water now communicate better eg. giving warning about tank cleaning, but don't give any feedback to people who complain, they seem to expect us to do that, but do we have the capacity to do so? And why should we? it is their responsibility. A motion was put forward to nominate Eileen as a specialist 'nose' to raise early warnings about smells. Suggestion that the number for Seafield complaints be put a large bill board along Seafield Road.

**ACTION – LLCC will write to Scottish Water to put Eileen forward.**

## **9. Updates from Elected Representatives**

Cllr Katrina Faccenda reported that the Transient Visitor Levy was passed ie a tourist tax. The Council will now decide how to spend the levy. She has asked for the cost implications of the Royal Funeral etc. for Edinburgh. A lot of correspondence is coming in to her, especially concerning regarding litter and bus services.

Cllr **Chas Booth Chas** reported that the Licencing Board review of the Spey Lounge on Leith Walk resulted in a two week suspension as a result of noise complaints and police reports. At Planning Committee, Ocean Terminal has got planning permission for the proposed redevelopment. Sadly, Marks & Spencer is pulling out of Ocean Terminal. Chas has been working on an amendment on how 'affordable housing' is defined. Most 'affordable housing' is not actually affordable for ordinary people. Sadly his amendment was rejected. City Plan 2030 should have been approved and

sent to the Scottish Government by now but has been delayed again. This has serious implications relating to student housing, short term lets. Edinburgh has the highest council housing rents in Scotland.

#### **10. Open Floor**

Local Leith resident Colin Whiteford spoke about his organisation 'Edinburgh Wheels' CIC . He has put in a funding application to Leith Chooses for a project to provide activities for Ukrainian refugees (older kids / teens). However if successful, he wouldn't get that funding until April. He wants to put on an event before then, on Leith Links on 5<sup>th</sup> November (partly as a 'distraction event' that the Police would support, to keep local kids occupied) – including skateboarding, live music, and other activities, food etc. as a way of helping Ukrainians to integrate with the local community. He's looking for support from local organisations. Several organisations were suggested, eg. Police, Duncan Place, etc. Agreed that a member of LLCC will meet with Colin to discuss.

#### **11. AOCB**

Sally reminded that Leith Chooses applications close next week, although there may be an extension of a week or two.

EACC is trying to raise the issue of what community councils might be able to do regarding the cost of living emergency? There is an idea to create a list of resources in the area that might be helpful, eg. CAB, Food Banks and other organisations. EVOC may have already done this – need to

Barbara said Leith Late have got funding to consult on the future of the Leith History mural. There is also a campaign and a petition regarding saving the Lindsay Road (Pride / Rainbow) Bridge for pedestrians.

#### **12. Date of next public meeting: Monday 31 October 2022, 6:30pm**

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