

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual Report May 2023

Chairperson's Report – Jim Scanlon MBE

I would like to begin by thanking our team of volunteer Community Councillors who give up their time to support and represent you, on a range of issues.

The Community Council as a statutory consultee continue to comment on planning applications for large new housing developments in our area. There are still brown field sites to be developed over the next few years which will lead to an increase in the population of Leith, Leith Links, and North Leith. We will continue to insist that as well as houses, the necessary infrastructure to support new residents must be built, to make a community - including better bus services, access to local health care and education for children, and community facilities, to make it a safe a pleasant place to live.

During the past year we have also monitored the progress of the implementation of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ). For months we asked to see the final plans, having suggested changes to the originals which we thought were sensible and could help local businesses and residents - only to find our suggestions were ignored and few, if any, changes were made.

We feel the City Council still has to learn how to better communicate and engage with local residents, when introducing new measures of this kind.

Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) plans for North Leith are currently being introduced, with mixed responses from local residents living with the LTN. The LTN team insist they consulted widely, but many would dispute this. Some local residents received a leaflet explaining the changes, recently, while other residents appear to have received nothing.

The Community Council had asked for a pause in the implementation of the LTN and Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) until the tram route was

completed, and was up and running, so that the impact of the trams on the local area could be evaluated. However, council officials decided to move forward with their plans.

We have been informed that both CPZ and LTN should come into operation during June, depending on signage and street marking being completed.

Leith Links Community Council will monitor the impact of changes on the lives of local residents and we would be grateful if you can contact us to tell us how you find the changes.

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 demand a better service from Lothian buses.

Now that life has returned to normal, the Community Council is replacing some online meetings with face-to-face meetings. It seems that online meetings may attract a larger audience of local residents, and are easier for Council staff to attend, as guest speakers, so these will continue, but we are also using facilities at Duncan Place, when possible, for face-to-face meetings.

As your Chair, I continue to represent the community on the Seafield Stakeholder Group with fellow Community Councillor, Eileen Simpson.

I'm also involved with the Custom House working group to try and establish a heritage centre in the building. The group are making slow but positive progress and personally I've visited small and larger heritage centres in the Lothians either operated by volunteers or councils to see what lessons we can learn.

Best Wishes
Jim Scanlon, Chair

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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



/LeithLinksCC



@LeithLinks_CC



Report from Treasurer - Gail Clapton

LLCC has two bank accounts, one is the 'main' LLCC account and the other is a 'project account' which is used exclusively for £eith Chooses. Both of these accounts have been examined and signed off as accurate by an independent scrutineer, and we are grateful to David Kay for performing this service for the Community Council.

The main Leith Links Community Council Account balance stood on 31 March 2023 at £1188.16. The main income during the year was the annual grant from the City of Edinburgh Council, and the main outgoings were for Third Party Public Liability insurance, which is obligatory; fees paid to our Minute Taker, leaflet printing, Gala Day and website costs.

The £eith Chooses Account had no income, and all outgoings were to cover website costs. This account is now almost run down to zero (Closing Balance £13.16) as no new grants have been obtained in recent years.

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
LLOYDS TSB TREASURERS ACCOUNT 86403060

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Annual Grant from CEC	£737.74	Insurance	£119.06
Share of Leith Gala Stall		Minutes	£195.00
From LHNCC	£16.67	Gala Day Stall 22&23	£100.00
Share of Leith Gala Stall		Website Costs	£86.30
From Leith Central	£16.67	Leaflets for Gala Day	£36.00
		ICO Charge	£35.00
Total Income	£771.08	Total Expenditure	£571.36
Bank Balance b/f	£988.44	Bank Balance c/f	£1188.16
TOTAL	£1759.52	TOTAL	£1759.52

Gail Clapton

LLCC Project Account #75396062 Leith Chooses account		Apr-22	to	Mar-23			
INCOME (IN)		EXPENDITURE (OUT)					
BANK	Date	Income	BANK	online pay	Details	Expenditure	Category
	1.4.2022	Starting Bank Balance	88.67	20.05.22	Sally Millar expenses payment (for web site)	50.34	Admin/promotion
				29.08.22	Sally Millar expenses payment (for web site)	25.17	Admin/promotion
		Total Income	0.00		Total Expenditure	75.51	
		Start bank balance	88.67		Bank Balance c/f	88.67	
		TOTAL	88.67		CLOSING Bank Balance	13.16	

Gail Clapton
Treasurer

Report from Secretary - Sally Millar

Throughout the year, we have held monthly meetings (apart from July & December) that are open to interested members of the public. We have been happy to see the number of members of the public who attend our meetings rise, which may be because of online meetings or may be because there is so much happening in our area at the moment. We are glad that members of Police Scotland's Community Policing team send in regular summary reports and have managed to attend one or two meetings in person.

We hosted a lively online 'Hustings' for candidates in the 2022 Council elections, and throughout the year we have also hosted informative 'visiting speakers' at our meetings, including from Edinburgh City Council (re Bin Hubs, Controlled Parking Zone, Leith Connections and Low Traffic Neighbourhood), from Scottish Water and Veolia, Lothian Buses, Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, Living Rent Organisation, and from SOS Leith.

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 very involved with the development of a 'Leith Links MasterPlan Working Group' which moves forward slowly but steadily, albeit so far lacking the funding to make it all happen....

We are also represented and work closely with the Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG), and the annual Leith Chooses participatory budgeting event. We send representatives to meetings run by the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC), and by the Cockburn Association (Civic Forum) – to name but a few.

We provided a strong presence at the (very windy!!) Leith Festival Gala Day in June 2022, delighted to be back 'live'. 'Better Buses for Leith', was the hot topic of the day! In partnership with the Eden Project and with the Duncan Place team, we organised and hosted a very successful 'Big Lunch' community picnic on Leith Links in July, helping to bring the community together. We have watered the ailing trees in pots and helped to 'save' some of them by getting them planted in the actual ground.

We joined with Duncan Place in carrying out two litterpicks on the Links, autumn and spring.

Since last summer, as a Community Council and as local residents, we have been very preoccupied with major changes in our area. Lothian Buses suddenly changed our local buses and bus routes, though not necessarily to the benefit of many in the area. And we have been struggling to keep up with, and to share, information about the implementation of a CPZ and LTN

Sadly, Community Councillor Michael Traill resigned from the Community Council in the course of the year, after 6+ years of very active service, and all his skills and hard work are much missed. We wish him success and contentment in new directions that he is taking. We are also, sadly, now 'losing' David Igoe, who is moving out of the area. Many thanks to him for everything he has done for the CC and for the local community during his time with us.

This means that we now have two vacant places on the Community Council – anybody interested? We were happy to welcome a new (coopted) Community Councillor in the course of the year, Amy Fairbairn, who has volunteered to take on some of the work of 'Community Engagement'.

We continue to work closely with Leith Harbour & 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 mostly try to attend our meetings and we are very grateful to them for their input and for the follow up work they put in on our behalf, in between times.

Finally, we are very sad to report that our Minute Taker Mary Gordon, who rose to the challenge, during Covid, of minuting the 'virtual' Community Council meetings, passed away quite suddenly, earlier this year. Most of us never even met her 'in real life', but I am happy to report that I did, and was able to thank her personally for her work. She was a strong feminist activist, who will be missed by many; we were lucky and privileged that she had time to fit us in!

Sally Millar
Secretary

Contacting the Community Council by email...
It's easy to get in touch, simply send an email to
contact@leithlinksc.org.uk