

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday 26 June 2023, 6:30 pm, at Duncan Place

LLCC Members Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Abigail Cunningham, Amy Fairbairn, Sally Millar (Secretary), Teresa Perchard, Jim Scanlon (Chair),

One member of the public

Minute Taker: Sally Millar

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** –Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Cllr Chas Booth, Cllr Adam McVey, Deidre Brock MP, Chrissie Reid, Andrew Mackenzie
- 2. Adoption of Minutes** Adoption of Minutes of May 2023 meeting proposed by Amy Fairbairn and seconded by Gail Clapton. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>
- 3. Police Scotland Report** - short report was read out, and has since been circulated to members. No officers present.
- 4. Update from Elected Representatives as available.**
No Councillors present on this occasion
- 5. Open Floor** – no new issues specifically raised by local residents

6. Transport, Travel & Mobility

Low Traffic Neighbourhood -Based on agreement at the last meeting to collect ‘soft’ data from members of the local community about how the new LTN and CPZ are affecting their lives, Barbara Kerr had designed a first draft of a short survey (using Mail Chimp) which, when finalised, will be circulated widely amongst the community, with the results to be fed back to the Council, and in particular the Leith Connections team, as part of the monitoring of the experimental phase of the LTN. There was extended discussion about the format of the survey and some of the questions, and suggestions made about edits to be made for the next draft.

ACTION: Sally will document the proposed alterations to the questionnaire, forward these to Barbara for further discussion and revision.

Public Transport – There had been a public meeting about public transport in Leith called by Councillor Katrina Faccenda, with an informative presentation by Chris Day of the Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG). It was not particularly well attended but that meant that everyone present had plenty time to talk about issues important to them. Reported problems mainly centred on the fact that local bus services have been changed without community consultation/ poor communication from Lothian Buses, and are widely felt to have deteriorated. Loss of bus stops and long distances between tram stops is a problem for older people and those with mobility difficulties. A lot of local problems are down to poor design of Leith Walk. Cllr Faccenda, who is now on the Council /Transport and Environment Committee, will feed back and follow up on the issues raised. She intends to hold more such meetings, so that there is a rolling ‘conversation’ in Leith about public transport.

The Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG) also held a public meeting in the same week (their AGM), with a presentation by Scott Arthur, Convenor of Transport & Environment Committee, laying out the ‘big picture’. Issues covered were wide ranging and similar issues came up, i.e. poor communication from Lothian Buses, upsetting changes for citizens. Specifically, there is a very angry reaction to the withdrawal of the 41 bus. EBUG and Edinburgh residents reject the ‘to not through’ approach (new 47 route) and need a bus that takes them to where they need to go in the centre of the city. Closure of bus stops causes unacceptably long walks for older and mobility impaired bus

users. Both public meetings provided useful information about who has responsibility for what (e.g. Council is responsible for bus stops but has no input to routes).

7. Events on Leith Links - Community Councillors held a debrief / discussion re Gala Day (10 June), and the Proclaimers' concerts (17, 18th June).

The Community Councils' stall at the Gala Day was very busy all day with members of the public adding their comments on the Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood, on Post-Its, on a flip chart. This was a very good opportunity to engage with the public and people also ended up discussing the issues with each other as well as with members of the CC. Amy Fairbairn has now written up all the comments made, and circulated this.

ACTION: Amy will edit further to sort the comments into main themes, and to create a 'report' that can be circulated to Councillors and Leith Connections team. Sally will add to website.

The Proclaimers concerts went well - the event was very well organised and there was a good atmosphere. The Community Tent within the ticket holders' enclosure, shared between LLCC, with Leith Festival, and Leith Athletic, went well, and the 'Sunshine on Leith' stickers that we gave out to people were very popular. Many were keen to participate in our 3-question survey about Short Term Lets

ACTION – Sally Millar will write this up, add to website, and circulate to Councillors.

Toilets – The Council has still not installed the planned temporary public toilets on the Links. At the request of Chair Jim Scanlon, Regular Music kindly allowed a couple of toilet cubicles to be placed outside the ticket holders/ enclosure, for the use of members of the local community who gathered on the Links to enjoy the event.

Community Benefit - Immediately after the concerts, Regular Music, the Proclaimers' promoters, asked LLCC to invoice them asap for the £1 per ticket sold that had been offered and agreed from the beginning of all the discussions about the concert, back in November / December 2022. LLCC did so, and now has £12,000 in the LLCC bank account. The Community Council is charged with identifying a suitable purchase of something identifiable and permanent that will enhance the Links, for the benefit of the whole community of Leith Links park users. The money is not to be used for anything that would be provided by the Council or any statutory body, but for something extra / 'special'. It is not to be distributed amongst groups to supplement funds, or for 'projects' with no permanent outcomes. There will be discussion with the Leith Links Master Plan Working Group, which has already identified a number of possible purchases and new developments for the Links. It is important that the Community Council is as open and as transparent as possible at every stage, about this money.

ACTION - It was agreed to start a list of possible ideas, circulate, discuss these further and refine, cost them, and eventually put it to a community vote, if possible.

8. Planning Updates – nothing at the moment.

9. AOCB

Sadly, Robert Cormack has tendered his resignation from the CC, due to the fact that he has stepped down as Community Convenor for Leith Rotary, and also now spends a lot of time abroad. He will ask at Leith Rotary for another volunteer to replace him in the role. Chair and Secy have thanked him for his service.

Jennifer Marlborough has just retired as Secretary of Leith Harbour & Newhaven Community Council. LLCC and LH &N CCs have worked very closely together and we have benefitted greatly from Jennifer's experience, commitment and hard work, particularly in the area of Planning applications. Unable to physically attend the meeting of LH&N CC, Sally sent a written message from LLCC to thank Jennifer for all her long and to wish her well in retirement and her new activities. She has said she will still be around to help out at community events from time to time.

Leith Chooses – The theme for 2023/2024 is 'People Make Leith'. Applications will be open from 16 August (first day of school term).

10. Next meeting: Monday 28 August 2023, 6:30pm, online or Duncan Place tbc nearer the time.