**Leith Links Community Council**

**MINUTES**

**Monday 29 May 2023 6:30 pm, at Duncan Place**

**LLCC Members Present**: Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Amy Fairbairn, Angus Hardie, Barbara Kerr, Sally Millar (Secretary), Jim Scanlon (Chair), Chrissie Reid, Eileen Simpson (**Online):** Andrew Mackenzie

**Elected Representatives**: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Katrina Faccenda, **(Online)** Councillor Adam McVey

**Minute Taker**: Sally Millar

1. **Welcome and Apologies** – Following the AGM, Chair welcomed everyone to this short ‘ordinary’ meeting. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Ben MacPherson MSP, Robert Cormack, Abigail Cunningham, Teresa Perchard,

2. **Adoption of Minutes** Adoption of Minutes of April 2023 meeting proposed by Angus Hardie and seconded by Gail Clapton. Available at <https://leithlinkscc.org.uk/>

**3. Police Scotland Report (circulated).** A murder took place on Constitution Street on 13th May, a 16 year old boy has been arrested. A number of hate crimes (racial remarks) have been recorded. NE Support teams have picked up a number of warrants on their patrols. A road safety team has apprehended drivers for passing cyclists too close. PS will be present at Gala Day.

**4. Election of Leads and membership of LLCC sub-committees:**Parks & Green Spaces – Teresa Perchard, Abigail Cunningham, Chrissie Reid, Barbara Kerr
Planning – Andrew Mackenzie, Teresa Perchard, Jim Scanlon, Sally Millar, Angus Hardie
Bins – Teresa Perchard
Seafield – Jim Scanlon, Eileen Simpson
Travel & Mobility, Transport – very busy area just now, business concerns all members.

**5. Update from Elected Representatives as available.**All Councillors have been receiving a lot of correspondence from residents about the CPZ. *Councillor Adam McVey* has been busy chasing up problems with the CPZ reported to him by constituents – yellow lines have been painted wrongly and in areas that don’t need them (although some are valuable, to protect sight lines for traffic at corners etc.). He is proposing to put a question to full Council about how many spaces have been lost overall.
*Councillor Katrina Faccenda* has also been extremely busy with parking issues raised by constituents, for example, places where there are unadopted roads, or residents private parking spaces. It is unclear why double yellows have been imposed on streets wide enough to accommodate parking. Some streets, such as Duncan Place, could have parking on one side. Many residents are having problems getting permits. The Council has done a poor job of communicating with residents. No news yet about parking permits for carers – still under consideration. Short Term Lets – from October all will require a licence and planning permission.
*Councillor Chas Booth* reported that he has also been dealing with a number of queries and requests for help from residents in connection with the CPZ. In Planning Committee, a licence was granted for a Short Term Let at 125 Constitution Street, as it shares a stair only with the Pillars Guest House, there are no other permanent residents. Most change of use applications for STLs have been refused. He said only about 500 applications have been made so far, whereas there are estimated to be about 5,000 STLs in Edinburgh. It is concerning if owners do not apply as they could get automatic permission in perpetuity if they have been in business for 10 years before they get investigated / enforced by the Council. It is therefore important that local residents report to the Council any properties that are functioning as short term lets and causing problems locally. This can be done via  <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/breachplanningcontrolsform>

*Councillor Katrina Faccenda* said that she was disappointed in permission granted for apart hotel in Water Street despite concerns about noise disturbing local business. She feels so-called ‘apart-hotels’ are really just a cluster of STLs by another name, and should not necessarily be granted. She will be watching out for other such applications carefully.
She is calling a public meeting on 20th June in Leith Community Centre, to discuss public transport in Leith, to decide on priorities to report to Lothian Buses. People are tired of changes to bus routes without consultation and/or advance information.
Scottish Government are publishing the Visitor Levy Bill. It has been agreed that Council will charge this levy as a % of peoples’ accommodation costs, rather than as a flat rate. Monies raised will be used to support visitor services (but this will also benefit residents), e.g. public toilets, street cleaning and waste management, etc. (to be negotiated). She feels it should be left to the Council to decide on how it’s spent (rather than laid down by ScotGov).

8. **Events on Leith Links**

Community Councillors discussed plans for Gala Day (10 June), and the Proclaimers’ concerts (17, 18th June).

The Community Councils’ stall will be used to engage with the public and gather ‘soft data’ about how people feel about the CPZ and Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

**9. AOCB**

Sally suggested using some kind of ‘journal’ to collect soft data about how the CPZ and LTN affect the lives of local people – things that will not be picked up by the Council’s monitoring and ‘hard data’ collection. Barbara suggested creating a short survey whose answers could be fed into Miles W’s collection of feedback and offered to create a first draft for discussion. Sally felt that one of the problems is that the council perceive things like ‘trams’, ‘CPZ’ and LTN’ and ‘Cycle routes’ as separate issues and only want to collect data associated with one at a time. But ‘real people’ in the locality are affected by all of these at once, as they all interact with each other.

12. **Next meeting: Monday 26 June 2023, 6:30pm, at Duncan Place**