

MINUTES

Monday 28 August 2023, 6:30 pm, at Duncan Place

**LLCC Members Present:** Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Amy Fairbairn, Barbara Kerr, Sally Millar (Secretary), Teresa Perchard, Chrissie Reid, Jim Scanlon (Chair), and Angus Hardie (online)

**Councillors:** Chas Booth, Katrina Faccenda

**Three members of the public**

**Minute Taker:** Sally Millar

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** – Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Deidre Brock MP, Eileen Simpson, Andrew Mackenzie
- 2. Adoption of Minutes** Adoption of Minutes of June 2023 meeting proposed by Gail Clapton and seconded by Teresa Perchard. Available at <https://leithlinksc.org.uk/>
- 3. Police Scotland Report** - No officers present, no report sent

**4. Update from Elected Representatives as available.**

*Short Term Lets* – Councillor Chas Booth reminded that applications for permissions must be in by 1<sup>st</sup> October if STL businesses have been operating previously (new businesses can apply later). Teresa Perchard asked what the situation is for Guest Houses without alcohol licences, eg. Pillars, ParkView, as the only regulation of hotels appears to be via the Licensing system. This was raised by a resident some time ago, with regard to fire safety at the Sandaig Guest House, and there are many other local guest houses used by the Council for temporary homeless people, eg. Culane, Merith, AAA. Are these places staffed or unstaffed? Do they have HMO licences? Are fire safety regulations checked / enforced?

**ACTION** – Cllr Chas Booth will check this out with Council officers.

*Visitor Levy (Tourist Tax)* – Cllr Katrina Faccenda reported that Council is being lobbied and is considering letting the money from this tax to be spent partly on promoting / marketing Edinburgh as a tourist destination, instead of spent fully on improving local infrastructure such as toilets, bus-shelters, waste management etc. - which would also benefit tourists of course. Both Councillors are opposed. Cllr Chas Booth reassured that a report on this issue will come back to Policy and Sustainability Committee in early 2024, so immediate action is not needed.

*Local Planters, Trees* – Cllr Katrina Faccenda has enquired about planting and maintenance. Mini trees in the planters are planned, but most people would prefer proper trees planted in the ground. Unclear who will pay for maintenance of planters, as Tram Team no longer has any responsibilities.

**5. Open Floor** – Rhona Alcorn, resident of Constitution Street, reported that Police Scotland are routinely parking several cars in the Loading Bay and parking spaces nearest the Police station, so that there is no space left for loading or for residents with permits to park. Some are apparently unmarked police cars but some seem to be the private cars of individual officers. Is this allowed? Chair had already emailed Police to ask about this and was told they can basically park anywhere. They need to be close to the station in order to be able to move fast if calls come in, and there are two murder investigation teams based at Leith currently plus extra officers if a major incident occurs. Cllr Katrina Faccenda had enquired and been told that they could park anywhere when 'on call', but did not have the right just to park while they were 'at work' in the office. Rather unclear.

**6. Transport, Travel & Mobility**

*LTN Update* – Miles Wilkinson had sent an update on the LTN, this was read out at the meeting and attached below.  
*Survey of views from the local community on Low Traffic Neighbourhood and CPZ* - After last month's discussions,

Barbara has been revising the survey LLCC intends to use to uncover information from the local community about how these changes in the area affect their lives (as 'soft' data, to complement whatever information the council collects from monitoring exercises). Once widely circulated, the results will be analysed -

**ACTION: Barbara, Sally and Amy will get together to finalise the survey and move forward with circulation plans.**  
**ACTION: Cllr Katrina Faccenda will continue following up to find out more details about how Council is monitoring the scheme.**

*Parking* – The effect of displaced parking because of the CPZ is very marked on the roads around the perimeter of the CPZ, notably Vanburgh and East Hermitage Place, Claremont Park, Claremont Road. Camper vans, vans and caravans are parked all along Claremont Park (and many have apparently moved to Craighall Road, while Hermitage Place is always so busy that residents cannot easily find any parking space. Teresa Perchard who lives there is in favour therefore of extending the CPZ to the 'West Leith' zone. 2 residents of Claremont Road had written to LLCC to complain about increased parking there, which makes the junction with Claremont Park difficult (double yellow lines required on the corner, there?) and reduces spaces for residents. Crossing Claremont Park is now unsafe, as pedestrians have to peek out between parked vans. New crossing required on Claremont Park?

Duncan Place is currently under-used, often empty. Better signage is required to make clear that it is free parking there at weekends. Barbara Kerr suggested the current maximum parking time could be increased to 1 day (so that local workers eg teachers at the school) might be able to use it, as otherwise it is unaffordable to park by the hour.

**ACTION – LLCC will email Parking Dept. about this.**

Questions were asked about how the parking situation is being monitored by the Council? Cllr Katrina Faccenda has asked about this. Is it possible to ask for the log of parking attendants? Some cars may be registered locally but are parked just outside the zone, to avoid paying for permit. There do not seem to be many parking attendants in our area – how many are there supposed to be? A local resident Ross Adams pointed out that attendants are hard to recruit and retain, so there are always poor staffing levels.

## **7. Leith Links Park**

*Events* - LLCC has written to Lindsay Grant to request a meeting to discuss review of permission procedures and enforcement, in order to avoid bad situations like the recent Gambian festival (litter, vehicles, fires, noise, guns, etc.)

*Toilets* – The Council has still not installed any signage for the temporary public toilets on the Links, so many still do not even know they are there. Chair has emailed twice, with no response from CEC

**ACTION – Cllr Chas Booth will chase this up.**

*Community Benefit* – There was extended discussion of how to spend the £12K donated by The Proclaimers / Regular Music for the benefit of the Links. A number of ideas on the list were rejected / downgraded/ deprioritised. (Outdoor ping pong and volleyball or MUGA court would come under the Activity Park bit of the MasterPlan. Wheelchair Swing raises issues about supervision. A statue would need an Act of Parliament, and so on.) The 'front runners' to be explored & costed etc. are: a bandstand / performance space, and decorative seating – unusual benches set together in a sociable arrangement (group space). Could these even be combined?

**ACTION - Agreed to continue to circulate/ exchange ideas & photos of successful installations elsewhere, and to discuss these further and cost them.**

*MasterPlan* – There is a meeting due soon, with particular focus on the proposed Activity Park (skatepark). LLCC has asked for a further meeting soon to discuss possible uses of the £12K donation.

**8. Planning Updates** – Cllr Booth reported an application for residential units next to the Bullfinch pub had been rejected due to concerns about future flooding due to climate change.

*52/66 Salamander Street* - Daltons are submitting a PAN for the scrapyard site on Salamander Pace / Road. This will include student accommodation as well as build- to-rent residential units, and retail / commercial units.

**ACTION – LLCC will engage with the developers and acquire further information about the proposed development.**

Developers will be invited to next meeting of LLCC. Next meeting will be held jointly with LH&NCC as this is close to their area too.

## 9. AOCB

*Leith Chooses* – The theme for 2023/2024 is ‘People Make Leith’. Applications are open until 10 October 2023. A support session for applicants will be offered on 20 September, and other support available as requested.

10. Next meeting: Monday 25 September 2023, 6:30pm, online

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### Update on Leith Connections project works undertaken from Miles Wilkinson, Active Travel Team 28 August 2023

#### General update

Since April we have undertaken various works in the area including:

- 3 areas of new community inspired artwork, the focus at the school locations of making more enjoyable, safer trips to the schools
- 6 areas of new planting with pollinator and native species
- 6 new pavement buildouts around Leith Links to aid informal pedestrian crossing
- 15 new benches which are being well used
- 17 new or improved dropped crossing/ new tactile paving
- Decluttering works of various unused signage and poles
- 5 new secure on street cycle parking locations within project area delivered in tandem with Secure on Street Cycle project, first ones in Leith, these already have high occupancy rates
- Provided pavement buildout at north end of John’s Place to tighten previously very wide junction and made give-go traffic to aid pedestrian crossing
- Implemented measures on Coburg Street, Sandport Place, Shore, Burgess Street and Wellington/ John’s Place to change traffic operations therefore reducing non-residential through traffic in these area.

Hopefully you caught the (very excitable!) pupils of St Mary’s on STV News last Tuesday night. If not you will be able to find them on STV Player showing off the posters they have designed to try and encourage responsible parking outside the school.

#### Remaining measures

You will have noted the delay in bringing in the full ETRO measures but will now in possession of the Stage 1 letter for the Experimental Traffic Order, following this notification the order will then be advertised allowing us to implement the final two traffic operations measures. It looks likely these should be implemented around mid October. There will be further local communications regarding these in the run up to implementation. The remaining measures are:

- removing through traffic from Tolbooth Wynd by a prohibition to motor traffic at the eastern end and making it two way
- implementing the westbound bus/ taxi gate on Links Place meaning general motor traffic cannot travel westbound from Links Gardens into Links Place, eastbound traffic unaffected.

When these measures are introduced the monitoring and evaluation baseline reports and plan will be published on the website and people will be able to provide feedback in general, and much has already been received, and formally to the ETRO process.

#### Trams/ CPZ

The implementation over the last few months on a similar timescale to trams operations commencing and introduction of the CPZ has obviously caused some additional concern no doubt for some. Just a reminder that the works I detail above and ongoing with Leith Connections project are separate although complementary to these projects. Worth noting that Leith Connections project has made very little changes to parking in the area, one positive feature of the

CPZ introduction is that there is now significantly more available blue badge parking in the area now as safe blue badge parking is possible on double yellow lines where no loading prohibitions exist. Also worth noting that Leith Connections project works to date are not related to any changes on Constitution Street or Bernard Street. These are Trams to Newhaven lining works/ planters etc.

### John's Place artwork interpretation poster

Thanks for your input to the artworks back in May. Our artist is just finalising an interpretation poster for the John's Place works to go up in the poster case, a draft shown below. Excuse the crude redaction, I've sent some suggested updates to the text on left they are still working on updating final version!

I was wondering if a slightly longer "essay" (1 page of A4 text?) accompanying this could be nice to explain a bit more behind some of the history of the key features. Is this something someone from the CC would be interested in helping with preparing or would you know someone with the knowledge to assist with this? I'm aware of Leith Local History Society who I can reach out to also. [Please let me know your thoughts.](#)



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