

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES Monday 24 February 2025, 6:30pm

in person @ Duncan Place

LLCC Members Present: Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice-Chair), Aric Gilinsky, Barbara Kerr, Eileen Simpson, Angus Hardie, Andy Mackenzie

Apologies: received from Jim Scanlon (Chair), Sally Millar (Secretary), Abigail Cunningham, Teresa Perchard, Cllr Adam Nols-McVey, Cllr Katrina Faccenda

Elected Representatives: Cllr Chas Booth

Police Scotland: 0 **Members of the Public:** 2

Minute Taker: Gail Clapton (Treasurer & Vice-Chair)

1. **Vice-Chair's welcome to attendees** - acknowledging two members of the public attending for the first time.
2. **Apologies** received as above. Chair is attending an event at the City Chambers to recognise 50 years of Community Councils.
3. **Adoption of Minutes of January 2025 and Matters Arising**

Previous Minutes were adopted. Proposed by Barbara Kerr and Seconded by Eileen Simpson

Actions from previous Minutes:

Action - Cllr Booth to follow up with Council issues surrounding parking problems at Elm Row. A response is still awaited on this.

Action - Chair to submit an Information Disclosure Request to Police Scotland concerning all crimes committed on Leith Links in last 5 years. No additional information on this at the meeting.

Action - Chair to attend Living Rents Leith meeting to encourage joining CC. Chair did attend but no-one immediately came forward as a representative however Chair will remain in contact with them given the similar concerns held by them and CC.

4. **Police Scotland Report:** A written report was circulated to members before the meeting (now available via www.leithlinksc.org.uk in 'Our Library') General discussion concerning e-bikes, e-scooters and the policing within the area.

5. **Transport and Mobility**

LTN Long discussion on the temporary TTROs for the Leith Low Traffic Neighbourhood, which have now been officially confirmed as permanent. Funding for this and earlier stages of the Leith Connections project was provided to the council via Sustrans, however proposed future stages (eg. Hawthornvale to Seafield cycle route, currently out for consultation, is for the moment unfunded and would potentially rely on funding via Transport Scotland). Are many pressures on Council funding in all areas. Cllr Booth has views for future actions regarding Salamander Place and Duncan Place, where traffic volume has increased. Mention was made of the ever-increasing traffic due to the intensive

programme of new building developments in the area, in addition to the constant heavy traffic associated with the docks.

Cllr Booth will be putting forward a motion to be brought to the Transport Committee in March (See below under APPENDIX 1) concerning the potential of moving the current bus gate at Links Place to Links Gardens, as well as other issues such as pedestrian crossing at Claremont Park, and including exploration of the next steps towards expanding CPZ zones (unlikely to happen quickly).

It was also noted that the Community Councils Together on Trams (CCTTT) group meetings are now taking place monthly again, to try and ensure that outstanding faults and snagging issues are resolved.

6. **CC Elections, March 2025.** A reminder was made concerning nomination papers for members standing for election to be signed and in by 4pm on 27 February. The two members of the public were encouraged to check out the form and information on the Council website.

7. **Open Floor:**

Update from elected Councillor in attendance. Cllr Booth confirmed that the Council's Budget had been decided last week and that there is to be an 8% council tax rise. A work-based parking levy was raised at the Transport & Environment Committee but this was again turned down. Cllr Booth had raised a motion at full Council on 6 February, to look at the feasibility of coming off X and using BlueSky instead. He personally and the Greens have already done this, and he advised that corporate comms have also moved to Bluesky. There was a discussion regarding websites v social media for raising community issues.

Issues raised by local residents: A previously reported utility hole cover at Salamander Place and Links Place junction has now been repaired by the contractor, by realigning the cover to fit correctly.

Seafield Waste Water Plant: Chair has written to Ben MacPherson MSP to raise two concerns. Foremost a recent Daily Record report of over 100 releases of partially treated sewage which had not been shared with the public. Secondly, to ask Scottish Government - given that costs generally are soaring (eg. projected cost of the new Barlinnie Prison) - what is the current position regarding Scottish Water and costings for the promised new sewage works? Chair has been advised that a reply will be forthcoming in due course. It was noted that there are have been some recent smell issues. Discussion was also had about the potential for a new sewage plant to incorporate a district heating option and whether this has been raised with Scottish Water. Barbara Kerr mentioned this following a report she and neighbours had sought concerning retro-fitting their block in connection with applications for heat pumps as per Home Energy. She will share the report. The next meeting with Scottish Water is in March and Chair will be attending and will feed back.

Leith Chooses: The success of the latest Leith Chooses was acknowledged, details of which are online. There was some discussion concerning Broughton Primary which is considered to be in Leith for the Leith Chooses which includes everywhere within three Leith Community Councils boundaries everything within the old Leith Neighbourhood Partnership / now Leith Neighbourhood Network boundaries.

Toilets: Discussion on the toilets planned for the Links, due to be installed this spring / summer. Discussion on the proposed Activity Park which is held up by funding issues, and in general plans are progressing slowly due to the Confirmation Act which covers buildings on the Links. Cllr Booth feels this is now an outdated Act and potentially it could be repealed.

Apart-hotels: Quick discussion on the definition of an Apart-hotel based on the recent planning application to change use of the old Mongolian/pizza restaurant on Assembly Street to one of these. Apparently, the definition is that there should be at least 5 serviced apartments.

8. **AOCB**

* Sally and Gail had attended as representatives of the LLCC at a recent litter pick on the Restalrig Railway Path. While this commenced at the Easter Road end it was not possible to cover the whole route despite quite a few

people turning up to help out. There is a potential for this to be a regular quarterly date and may start at the other end of the path, or halfway along, on future dates.

* Duncan Place has organised a litter pick on Leith Links for 22nd March, which the LLCC is supporting. They will supply the picks and bags. Meet outside Duncan Place for 10am.

* It was confirmed that a stall has been booked for the next Gala Day on Saturday 14 June 2025. Barbara advised that the Pageant has been moved from the Gala Day to the Tattoo Day on 22 June as this is easier for Leith Festival organization.

9. **Next Meeting** - tbc as CC elections are pending. Keep an eye on the website.

APPENDIX 1

Meeting: [06/03/2025 - Transport and Environment Committee \(Item 9\)](#)

- [Webcast for 06/03/2025 - Transport and Environment Committee](#)

Motion by Councillor Booth - Liveable Neighbourhoods

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“Committee:

- 1) Notes the decision of TRO sub-committee on 18 February to make the Leith Liveable Neighbourhood, introduced under ETRO 23/20, permanent; further notes that while the scheme was generally successful at reducing motor traffic, there was a traffic increase on Duncan Place and northbound on Salamander Place;
- 2) Notes that while there is a commitment in the City Mobility Plan (CMP) to roll out liveable neighbourhoods, this work is currently unfunded within the CMP action plan (action 105) but this is being assessed as part of the CMP CIP review agreed by committee in December 2024;
- 3) Requests a report to committee in 4 cycles setting out:
 - a) options to address the increase in traffic on Duncan Place and northbound on Salamander Place including, but not limited to, moving the bus gate to Links Gardens and introducing a full modal filter at either the north end of Johns Place or the south end of Duncan Place;
 - b) what further action can be taken to improve dropped kerbs, pavements camber and improve conditions for walkers and wheelers throughout the project area and in particular at Claremont Park/Gladstone Place, including the potential for a new pedestrian crossing near the nursing home;
 - c) what further action can be taken to improve conditions for those cycling in the area, in particular along quiet route 10 between Sandport Bridge and Links Gardens;
 - d) whether there would be advantages to coordinating the timing of any further changes to the Liveable Neighbourhood with rollout of the CPZ to the area south of Leith Links;
 - e) any lessons learned from the Leith Liveable Neighbourhood scheme, in particular on how the council can better engage with disabled people who might be impacted by a scheme at the earliest possible stage.”

Additional documents:

- [Webcast for Motion by Councillor Booth - Liveable Neighbourhoods](#)