

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES Monday 31 March 2025, 6:30pm

in person @ Duncan Place

Chair – Cllr Katrina Faccenda (Returning Officer)

Present: Gail Clapton, Avril Ewing, Aric Gilinsky, Angus Hardie, Andy Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Teresa Perchard, Jim Scanlon, Eileen Simpson,

Apologies: Abigail Cunningham

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

Minute Taker: Sally Millar

1. Welcome, and Apologies received as above.

Although three new CC members had been nominated and elected, none of them attended this meeting. They will be contacted again asap to try to establish whether they still intend to become Community Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest – none declared

3. Announcing Community Council Members as duly elected.

Eight Community Councillors submitted their signed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Community Council Member Role' and were confirmed as duly elected Community Council Members, as follows: Gail Clapton, Aric Gilinsky, Angus Hardie, Andy Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Teresa Perchard, Jim Scanlon, Eileen Simpson.

Hopefully, four more will follow, once their signed Declarations have been received.

Avril Ewing is nominated as a representative of the Local Community Group 'Living Rent' however her formal election is also awaiting completion of paperwork.

ACTION:

Sally to contact Barbara Kerr re rejoining the CC as a representative of Leith Festival community group.

4. Confirmation of Community Council Name – unanimous agreement to stay with the existing name i.e. Leith Links Community Council

5. Appointment of Office Bearers. Members were reluctant to appoint Office Bearers without the chance to involve all the new Community Councillors, but there was apparently no way of avoiding this. The Governance rules state that another AGM may take place later in the year (probably May / June, or anyway before December 2025), to allow for submission of Accounts, Annual Report etc. and for possible changes to Office Bearers. Meanwhile, office-bearers were appointed as follows:

- Chair – Jim Scanlon, Proposed by Eileen Simpson, Seconded by Angus Hardie
- Secretary – Sally Millar, Proposed by Andy Mackenzie, Seconded by Aric Gilinsky
- Treasurer – Gail Clapton, Proposed by Sally Millar, Seconded by Aric Gilinsky
- Engagement & Inclusion Officer – Aric Gilinsky, Proposed by Sally Millar, Seconded by Gail Clapton

6. Community Council Representatives to attend induction event, Saturday 26 April 2025, 9:30-12:30

Ideally, members agreed that 2 (or ideally, all three, if Council will permit) of the new Members should be given the chance to attend this (in person) Council run training event.

They will be offered this possibility as soon as they respond to efforts at contacting them.

A further induction session is being offered online, on 28 April, 18:00-20:15. This will allow for unlimited numbers of attendees, both new members and returning Community Councillors. Joining details will be available nearer the time.

All Community Councillors wishing to attend either event should get in touch asap. Email:

contact@leithlinksc.org.uk

7. AOCB

Agreed that LLCC would write in support of the Seafield MasterPlan team's proposal to pursue feasibility work for a local heat network based on renewable sources of energy.

Agreed that LLLC supports the position on purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) laid out in the recent document by Leith Central Community Council, and might in future campaign jointly with our adjoining CCs and with Living Rent and other bodies, on this issue.

There was a short 'round table' review of current work of the Community Council and issues affecting the local area.

City of Edinburgh Council consultations – there are several important consultations currently that require a response both from individuals and from the CC. All Community Councillors should keep checking what is 'live' on the consultation hub, when each consultation is going to close, and should take the chance to have their say.

https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/consultation_finder/

These are the most urgent ones right now (because of closing date), that are potentially of interest to the LLCC and local residents:

- **Edinburgh planning design guidance (pp142)** – closes **3 April** [Edinburgh Design Guidance 2024 Draft](#) Sally Millar agreed to draft a brief response on behalf of LLCC.
- **Planning guidance for householders (pp19)** – closes **3 April** [guidance-for-householders-draft-for-consultation-january-2025](#)
- **Planning guidance for owners of listed buildings and in conservation areas (pp33)** – closes **3 April** [listed-building-and-conservation-area-guidance-draft-for-consultation-january-2025](#)
- **Park Rules consultation** (closes **11 April**) Teresa Perchard agreed to draft a response from LLCC.

Looking further forward there is:

- **Local Housing Strategy** – closes **22 April** [Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)
Avril Ewing agreed to share responses in preparation on this one, by Living Rent and LCCC, so that LLCC can align with these.
- **Seafield Place Plan** – closes **30 April** - [Seafield Place Brief and Masterplan Consultation - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)
- **Licensing Overprovision** - closes **4 May** – so we have a bit of time to think about it. [Statement of Licensing Policy - Assessment of Overprovision - City of Edinburgh Council - Citizen Space](#)
- **Student Accommodation** proposals - closes **23 May**.

LLCC sub-committees – New members will be invited to express their interest and skills and hopefully join one or more of the CC’s working groups. Until now there have been 5, it was agreed to add a new one, as follows:

- 1) **Parks & Green Spaces** – Public toilets about to be installed on the Links, hopefully before the summer holidays. Leith Links MasterPlan currently in the hands of Thriving Green Spaces
https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/leith-links-activity-hub/user_uploads/leith-links-activity-hub_a1-consultation-board.final.23.09.07.pdf<https://www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/us> and Leith Links Activity Park group (https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/leith-links-activity-hub/user_uploads/leith-links-activity-hub_a1-consultation-board.final.23.09.07.pdf)
- 2) **Travel & Mobility** – ongoing issues, re Leith Connections / ‘Liveable Leith’ see Appendix 1 below. CCTT group (Andrew, Angus) has resumed monthly meetings, to press for urgent resolution of unfinished
- 3) **Planning:** – Weekly lists of Planning Applications are scrutinized, and comments sent from LLCC as appropriate
- 4) **Bins & Street Cleanliness:** Latest guidance update
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/36148/updated-review-framework-november-2024>
- 5) **Seafield Waste Water Plant** – awaiting a response from Scottish Government about funds for the promised new plant.
- 6) **Licensing.** This is an area of work that the CC has not been covering very effectively and it was agreed to try and improve this. Unlike with Planning applications, the CC is not informed about new Licensing applications affecting our area, nor is it informed of the outcomes of applications – information and communication from the Council Licensing bodies is very poor (have to proactively look up and search through through multiple Excel spreadsheets on a daily / weekly basis. It was agreed to write to Council to request a better system that would alert and facilitate engagement with the community.
The areas of Licensing that are particularly important in our area, which we do not want to miss, are concerned with: ‘Civic’ licensing (incl. Street Trading), HMO licence applications, Short Term Let applications. See <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13239/licensing-registers-civic>
Also Alcohol licensing, which are dealt with separately, See <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13426/alcohol-licence-registers>

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 28th April 2025, 6:30 at Duncan Place

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](#)