

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES Monday 30 June 2025, 6:30pm

Online (Teams)

Present: Andrew Ballantine, Gail Clapton, Avril Ewing, Aric Gilinsky, Angus Hardie, Andy Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Eileen Simpson

Elected Members: 0

Apologies: Councillor Chas Booth, Abigail Cunningham, Councillor Katrina Faccenda, Barbara Kerr, Aimee McInnes, Teresa Perchard, Jim Scanlon

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

Chair: Gail Clapton **Minute Taker:** Sally Millar

1. **Welcome, and Apologies** received as above.
2. **Adoption of Previous Minutes.** Proposed: Aric Gilinsky, Seconded: Andrew Mackenzie
3. **Visiting Speaker:** Catherine Scanlin, Licensing Manager, City of Edinburgh Council gave an extremely interesting presentation which explained in detail many aspects of the Licensing Service (which reports to the Licensing sub-Committee); different types of applications, i.e.
 - (Alcohol and gambling: licensed premises, occasional licences (events), personal licences, casinos, bingo premises, betting shops etc.;
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)
 - Civic and miscellaneous: short term lets, public entertainment, street trader, market operator, cinema, skin piercing and tattooing, second hand dealers, late hours catering, parades and processions, animal boarding, animal breeding, hypnotism...
 - Taxi and Private Hire – driver, vehicle and booking office applications process

She talked about how applications are processed, who is consulted on applications, the role of the Licensing Board, the role of the Licensing sub-Committee, temporary licences, site notices, enforcement, complaints etc.

This is obviously an extremely busy team/service. She advised that if the LLCC needed a swift response, they should email her personally at catherine.scanlin@edinburgh.gov.uk (NOT the licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk inbox which might be slow to respond) or - better - should phone: 0131 529 4208 (8:30-5pm)

There was considerable discussion particularly about HMO licensing issues (ApartHotels are apparently exempt from the legislation and do not need a licence, though they do need planning permission) and about what constitutes a 'fit and proper person' to hold an HMO licence. We also discussed communication channels between CC and Licensing service. Spreadsheets are published at intervals and Community Councils are notified of these, but have to search these 'manually' by ward and by 'new', as there is no easily accessible online database. However the software for managing the HMO registers is due to be updated and should be available for public access by August.

The full text of her presentation (in pdf format) accompanies these Minutes.

The speaker Ms Scanlin was thanked for her very comprehensive and interesting presentation.

4. **Police Scotland Report** – No officers present. Brief report has been sent and circulated. It was noted with approval that Police had been addressing the problem of shoplifting and anti-social behaviour in the Kirkgate, which is much needed.
ACTION: Secretary to contact Police Scotland colleagues to make the point that we support their recent efforts in this regard. Also that we strongly request that Leith continues to have a manned local police station
5. **Update from Elected City Councillors** – none present.
6. **Issues Raised by Local Residents**
A local resident reported that he had seen a leaflet produced by Craighentinny Community Council about road changes and thought that was a good idea for this area. Comment was made that we find it very difficult to get any information (and especially not in advance) from the Council of what road works are to be undertaken, why, when, time-scales etc.
7. **Planning** – Angus Hardy is setting up a meeting between LLCC and Harbour Homes for a general update and specifically to learn more about why they are not building on their land in Wellington Place and the terms on which Earth in Common would be taking the land over.
Andy Mackenzie had attended a site visit at Assembly Street, for proposed ApartHotel.
The RBS site on Bernard Street (listed building? In conservation area) in (LH&N CC area) is now applying to become 'serviced apartments'. What is the difference between an apart hotel and serviced apartments?
8. **Parks and Greenspaces** – noted that the public toilets supposedly to be open in 'early / mid June' are still not open. Digging work has been carried out on the bowling green area, possibly more drainage issues than anticipated.
ACTION: Aric Gilinsky will draft a letter that Secy will send to enquire about date for their opening and to enquire about any compensation due to the Council because of delays caused by contractor.
9. **Travel & Mobility**
Traffic on Great Junction Street and the Henderson Street area is chaotic due to cycle lane construction. Angus Hardie reported that CCTT had met again with Robert Armstrong of the Tram team who are working through the list of outstanding defects and trying to resolve some of the easier ones 'quick wins' before they send in report of progress to Transport and Environment Committee.
ACTION: Secy will write to invite Gareth Barwell to attend LLCC meeting soon.
ACTION: Secy will write to Council re broken pavements on Clarebank Crescent & Blackie Road
ACTION: Secy will write to Council re need for double yellow lines on the corner of Claremont Road with Claremont Park, where irresponsible parking is causing problems, and making it dangerous to cross the road. Also need for a crossing over Claremont Park, roughly at the Nursing Home.
10. **Seafeld Sewage Plant:** Due to the Gala Day being (literally) a wash out, the plan to get local people to sign the protest postcards (to be sent to CEO of Scottish Water) has been delayed. New plan is for members of the CC to go round and try to get cards signed by their neighbours. Ask allotment holders and Leith Community Growers to sign. Also plan to take a stall at Leith Market to get passers by to sign
ACTION: Chair Jim Scanlon has piles of cards in the entry hall at his house. CC members to pick up cards there, and return them to the 'postbox' there once signed.
ACTION: Chair Jim Scanlon will organize a Leith Market stall asap.
11. **AOCB:**
12. **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25 August, in-person Duncan Place.**