

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES Monday 29 September 2025, 6:30pm

Duncan Place

Present: Gail Clapton, Abigail Cunningham, Aric Gilinsky, Angus Hardie, Andy Mackenzie, Sally Millar, Jim Scanlon (Chair), Eileen Simpson

Elected Members: 0

Apologies: Andrew Ballantine, Avril Ewing, Aimee McInnes, Barara Kerr, Teresa Perchard, Councillor Adam Nols-McVey, Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Katrina Faccenda,

Police Scotland: 0 **Members of the Public:** 1

Chair: Jim Scanlon **Minute Taker:** Sally Millar

1. **Welcome, and Apologies** received as above.

2. **Adoption of Previous Minutes.** Proposed: Gail Clapton, Seconded: Angus Hardie

3. **Police Scotland Report** – No officers present. Brief report had been sent and circulated.

Abigail has reported (101) witnessing three drug deals taking place in the phone box at Vanburgh Place, also needles found inside the phone box, and drug taking witnessed. Don't know if police responded or not – they would be unlikely to just happen to see anything just by walking past once or twice a week.

ACTION – Chair will write to ask for officers to come at least quarterly to meetings.

Gail reported that the toilet attendant told her of drug taking in the toilets. Marco Galli had confirmed in an email that toilets have been blocked due to needles, and other drug equipment blocking the drains, resulting in cubicles closed for repair. CEC is investigating a better and more secure system for accessing the Changing Places' facility.

4. **Update from Elected City Councillors** – 0

5. **New issues from local residents** – 0

6. **Seafeld Sewage Plant** – Jim Scanlon and Eileen Simpson reported on interim meeting of Stakeholder Group.

Main complaint is the inadequate reporting / complaints system whereby complaints just get passed from agency to agency and nobody takes responsibility. CEC agreed to 'tweak' the generic response that they send out to complainers but it is too little too late.

Rob Kirkwood had identified the locations causing smells (eg mostly intake points where sewage is already septic when it arrives. (But any improvements that have been made recently are all in other places). Concern that the 'no regrets funding is being 'frittered away to no effect.

Second tendering process is only now being launched (first tenderer pulled out.) Being run by Scottish Water.

Planning application for the work to be done will be going up on the portal shortly.

LLCC urgently wants to hear about plans for after 2029, when SW take over running the plant from ~Veolia, which should be well advancing by now.

MSP Ben MacPherson did not want LLCC to carry out our 'postcard campaign' to Scottish Water until after he had written to Minister, however this had been delayed until after the Parliamentary recess. He is hoping to meet with Cabinet Secretary and someone from Scottish Water. (LLCC could be involved in that meeting?)

LLCC members agreed we should keep up the pressure and not just sit and wait any longer. We nearly have 500 cards signed so we should be planning to deliver them soon to CEO of Scottish Water.

ACTION: Chair Jim Scanlon will write to Ben MacPherson MSP giving him a week to respond, before we resume the campaign.

ACTION: Chair Jim Scanlon still has a few cards in the entry hall at his house. CC members to pick up cards there, and return them to the red 'postbox' there once signed.

7. Planning:

LLCC notes that most application now coming in are for 'serviced apartments' or 'ApartHotels' - this is a loophole that lets developers build what are essentially short term lets. E.g. Queen Charlotte Street motor bike shop - 6 flats on ground floor. Assembly Street (former Riva Pizza restaurant) - ApartHotel approved in June 2025.

Listed building Consent in a Conservation Area sought by Cameron Guest House Group, for Old Leith GPO on Constitution Street – Teresa (for LLCC) and Sally had objected.

Restalrig Road – change of use from flats to STLs – LLCC objects to these applications – community wants permanent homes, not STLs.

Rebel Bear mural fiasco (Cables Wynd)

ACTION -Chair to write to Cllr Katrina Faccenda to ask for details of what happened.

ACTION – Chair to write to LH&Newhaven CC to ask what if anything they have done / are doing about the matter.

ACTION :Chair to write to CEC to note disappointment on how the matter was handled

8. Travel & Mobility:

Sally Millar has written to ask Gareth Barwell to attend an LLCC meeting, to discuss the 'big picture' of plans for our area ensuring that all the different agencies are coordinating with each other and collectively thinking through long term consequences. He was not able to attend in August or September.

ACTION- Secy to pursue to get meeting with Gareth Barwell, for October or beyond

Traffic and bus services and stops on Great Junction Street and the Henderson Street area are still chaotic due to cycle lane construction, which seems to be taking a long time.

ACTION: Sally and Angus to meet with Miles Wilkinson on 6th October for 'walkabout meeting' re new (small scale) improvements planned (£20K extra money available that must be spent quickly)

ACTION: At this meeting, they will ask Miles to clarify exactly what the plans are for the bus-gate changes. (i.e. moving it to Links Gardens and thus effectively removing the through route from Restalrig Road, Hermitage Place & Claremont Park down Salamander Place)

ACTION: LLCC to inform local community about proposed changes to bus gate and asking them to contact their local Councillors by email to express their views on this. Councillors take more notice of personal emails than petitions, surveys etc.

ACTION – use Leith Market stall, Community Centre, Duncan Place and Libraries to spread information.

9. Licensing – Gail is monitoring regularly. Nothing to report at the moment.

10. Parks and Greenspaces –CCTV due to be installed at toilets soon -check whether this done yet or not. Signs in the park to the toilets?

11. AOCB:

New 'Pride of Place funding' – could some of this be used in/for Leith? Teresa will explore. Aric reported that the funding for Edinburgh will be allocated by an independently chaired 'Neighbourhood Board'.

12.

New (interim) Parks Officer is Laura Shelborne.

ACTION – invite her to come to LLCC meeting to speak, sometime

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 27 October, in-person Duncan Place.