

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES Monday 27 April 2026, Duncan Place

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

Elected Members: Councillor Chas Booth, Councillor Katrina Faccenda

Apologies: Barbara Kerr, Andy McKenzie, Teresa Perchard,

Police Scotland: 0

Members of the Public: 3

Chair: Angus Hardie

Minute Taker: Sally Millar

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Adoption of Previous Minutes. Proposed: Abigail Cunningham, Seconded: Aric Gilinsky

Matters Arising:

LLCC reps Angus Hardie and Teresa Perchard had met in April (routine catchup) with Heather Kately CEO of Harbour Homes, a cordial meeting. CEO did not know about the developing Place Plan and were interested to know more, particularly re the idea of a Development Trust and/or Housing Trust. HH is not developing any new homes until 2028. They have only a very small 'land bank' of potential housing sites: 1. Wellington Place, which will be a temporary growing space run by the Croft, and 2. Down by the east end of the docks, beside the old Casino. They do not know which Housing Association partner is associated with the new Daltons site on Salamander (not HH). LLCC and HH will continue to meet and keep in touch.

3. Police Scotland Report – PC John Anderson had submitted a Powerpoint report (circulated), similar to previous ones. Good news that additional resources have helped Police Scotland (PS) to achieve a higher level of intervention and good results with regard to retail crime, locally. Officer had responded re LLCC request for more numbers / statistics, he did not feel these necessarily helped but willing to discuss further. There have been issues with youth anti-social behaviour in Academy Lofts and throwing stones in the street, but no response from PS.

ACTION: LLCC to mention these to PC Anderson.

It was noted that very negative language terms for young people are often used locally but this is not helpful. These are 'our' young people and we should be positively fighting for more investment in staff, and in youth facilities, as cuts in these have partly caused the current bad situation.

4. Guest Speakers – Sutherland Forsyth of Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) gave a very interesting presentation, explaining the latest vision and exciting development ideas for the Custom House project. The current stage is writing a business case, fund-raising, architectural plans, applying for Planning Permissions, and gradually opening more rooms in stages. Also tendering for IT and design experts to implement the plans. There will be a 'pilot museum experience' in 2027-2028, collecting 'stories' and artefacts (900 artefacts, tying in with Leith 900 centenary (2024 and ongoing) and lots of engagement with the public (through Gala Day, Living Memory Association, an 'Antiques Roadshow type event etc.) Links with Leith Nautical College, digitisation of the Salvesen family archive, also Henry Robb and George Brown histories, plans to make a film or 3D scan of the historic Council Chamber (inside Police Station now). Material being collected to cover not only Leith's maritime history (including visit of King Olaf of Norway, Tall Ships visit etc.), but also home life, work life, culture, celebration etc. Leith is more than the sum of its parts – the people of Leith, the town of Leith, the power of Leith. Planning a painted 'timeline of Leith' by local artist and a 'soundscape' of Leith. SHBT owns the custom house building but Leith Civic Trust will transform into 'Leith Museum Trust', and recruit new Trustees who will build up a pool of expertise, recruit volunteers, to take responsibility for the museum going forward.

5. Seafield Sewage – Matt Farnham (Communication and Engagement and Operational Communication Coordinator, Veolia) joined online to give an update. Work has begun on demolition of redundant and temporary buildings, prior to start of a big new 'strategic sludge improvement plan in May which aims to reduce odour problems. There will be publicity about all this in early June. Scottish Water apparently wrote a

press release, but LLCC did not receive this. Matt will send LLCC an outline of the project, that we can put on the website. Meanwhile see: <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/news-and-views/2026/03/120326-seafield-investment>

It is planned to build a new large capacity underground sludge storage facility, offering controlled conditions for holding sludge if it has to wait to get processed; planning permission has now been granted and the plans signed off by SEPA. (In answer to a question, Matt stated that it was never part of the plans to cover the existing storage tanks.) Construction should be finished by summer 2027 – well before site gets handed back to Scottish Water by Veolia. Again, LLCC asked for better communication from Veolia and Scottish Water.

6. Update from City Councillors

Cllr Booth reported that consultation is proceeding re a safe drug consumption room in the Old Town. Scottish Government would commit to a letter recommending no prosecution of users.

The Greens had argued in Transport and Environment Committee for more funding for footways to give pedestrians priority (Living Streets) but motion was defeated.

Licensing Committee is discussing the issue of noise from football fans outside pubs, during the extended opening hours of World Cup. 10 pubs have big 'outside areas'.

Cllr Faccenda commented that always pairing enjoyment of football with alcoholic drink is undesirable.

She has been meeting Police Scotland Area Commander and discussing approaches to anti-social behaviour in Leith.

7. Issues raised by local residents

A local resident reported that there had been a fire on Cornhill Terrace and the fire engine was unable to reach the site due to a parked car blocking access. This is a known concern – the same problem pertains on Ryehill Terrace and on East Restalrig Terrace etc. The problem is worse since the ban on pavement parking. There is a need for double yellow lines on the corners and some people argue for parking restrictions so that there is only parking on one side. The concern is heightened by the road works on Restalrig Road which makes access to the area in general very difficult.

Dangerous parking has been reported on the corner of Claremont Road (made worse by the recent Restalrig Road roadworks causing increased parking and through traffic) and temporary cones have been installed though these are movable – a TRO is needed to paint double yellows).

8. Parks and Greenspaces

- A number of local parents have been complaining about the Council's lack of action on repairing/restoring the children's play park on the Links. Councillor Katrina Faccenda has investigated and reports a 'perfect storm' of problems – e.g. wrong equipment ordered / delivered etc. Resident has threatened to go to the media with the story. CC members agreed that seemed a good idea.
- Marco Galli of CEC sent an update re the public toilets. Drainage remediation work is to begin on 4 May, followed by testing etc. Re-opening is expected at the beginning of June subject to final testing and verification.
- Abigail Cunningham is in ongoing communication with Thriving Green Spaces (TGS) about the proposed mural on the public toilets. This apparently needs Planning Permission, but TGS has not applied for Planning Permission. Who should be applying? There is a fee to be paid. To be continued....
- Proposal to create a Friends of Leith Links group has been positively received at Council (Steven McGregor) and group could become part of Friends of Parks network. The Links group could also be part of the Edinburgh Nature Network, see <https://www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/homepage/15/edinburgh-nature-network>

ACTION: Abigail to inform Edinburgh Nature Network about need to include Restalrig Road Railway path.

9. **Draft Leith Place** – Following earlier feedback from LLCC, the Place Plan team have updated the draft and are now asking for further input.

ACTION – Next round of feedback will be formulated and supplied over the next few weeks by a small LLCC group (Sally, Teresa, Abigail, Angus, Barbara).

10. **Planning** – LLCC had submitted a 'soft objection' re the Daltons site on Salamander, stipulating that the student accommodation should not be allowed to be transformed into 'holiday lets'. LLCC will object re an

application to turn a woodworking corner shop space in the LL colonies into a flat, on the grounds of protecting commercial / manufacturing/ studio space as part of 'mixed use' policy for the area (i.e. not just 'all' housing).

11. **Transport & mobility:** Roadworks on Restalrig Road – queries are still being raised by residents as to what exactly is happening, and complaining about poor communication about when roads will be closed, buses diverted etc.? <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/road-projects-improvements/restalrig-road>

ACTION: Secy & Cllr. Faccenda to ask for further info and arrange a 'walkabout' session on-site with the Council officer (Roads Dept.) allocated to the works. Keen to establish whether pavement repairs will be included in the roadworks, they are in a shockingly bad condition in places, especially down towards the traffic lights at Gladstone Place.

Pavement build-out on Claremont Park was promised back in October 2025, but no news of this yet.

12. **AOCB**

- Need to encourage new CC members (CC is now down to 9 plus 2 representatives of local community groups).
- Stall has been booked for the Leith Festival Gala Day on 13th June, LCCC and LH&N CCs have agreed to share. Recruitment of new CC members is one issue to be highlighted. Also suggested themes such as- 'Where would you like to see a bin?'; need for repairs to pavements; play park restoration; and seafield smells (meant to be last year but rained off).
- Remakery is 'officially unveiling' new mural on its wall in New Kirkgate on May 7th.

13. **Date of Next Meeting and AGM: Monday 25 May 2026, in-person Duncan Place.**

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