

## Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in Nelson Hall, McDonald Road library on Monday 20 March 2017 at 7:00pm

Actions and decisions are ***RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS***. ***NEM CON*** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision. URLs added by minutes secretary.

### 1 Attendance and apologies

#### 1.1 Attendance

Jack Caldwell	LCCC	Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice chair
Roberto Colasuonno	LCCC	Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary
Alan Dudley	LCCC	Michael Traill	Leith Links CC
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC secretary	Ella Taylor Smith	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
John Hein	LCCC chair	Sophie Brown	Friends of Pilrig Park
Sheila Kennedy	LCCC	Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Iona McLeod	LCCC	Cllr Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (SNP)
Lorraine Moore	LCCC treasurer	Sgt Niven Bull	Police Scotland
Damian Sefton	LCCC	5 residents	
Julian Siann	LCCC		

#### 1.2 Apologies

Andrew Harlick	LCCC	Gavin Rankin	LCCC
Darius Garab	LCCC	Deidre Brock MP	Edinburgh North & Leith
Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Ben Macpherson MSP	Edinburgh Northern & Leith (SNP)

### 2 Approval of minutes of 20 February 2017 meeting

Approved subject to amending first sentence in item 8.2 ('much of LCCC's area' rather than just the colonies). Proposed C Encombe, seconded I McLeod, agreed *nem con*

### 3 Matters arising

- Content of [April 2016 minutes](#) has now been agreed.
- Item 4.1 of February minutes: 'transforming the planning system' consultation closes 4<sup>th</sup> April.  
***ACTIONS: LCCC MEMBERS TO RESPOND INDIVIDUALLY, H TOBERMANN TO SUBMIT LCCC'S RESPONSE***
- Item 4-2: HT has submitted LCCC's response.
- Item 6-3: HT attended the recent Civic Forum meeting.
- Item 6-4: Transport Forum attendance is by invitation. Potential attendees should contact [Cllr Lesley Hinds](#).
- Item 7-2: ***ACTION: HT TO SUBMIT LCCC'S RESPONSE.***

### 4 Community Police Officer's report

H Tobermann reported that he has the relevant quarterly crime report.

Sgt Bull reported:

- Operation Soteria is the local response to motorcycle-related crime. Police Scotland (PS) are focussing on crime prevention by working with local businesses, giving them crime prevention advice such as advice about securing motorcycles. PS are also working with schools, and patrolling around crime hot-spots and likely crime locations.
- PS community officers are also regularly patrolling for rough sleepers.
- Edinburgh's 20mph policy was implemented on 28 Feb: PS are now enforcing this, educating drivers and patrolling near primary schools. Prosecutions will happen for serious violations.

#### 4.1 Notable recent arrests

- 2 persons, for attempted theft of motorcycles and breach of their bail conditions.
- 2 persons, for racial abuse.
- Another person, for causing a disturbance.
- Another person, for assault and homophobic conduct

#### 4.2 Selected Leith Walk ward crime statistics for February (and year to date)

- 12 housebreak-ins HBs: 6 to dwellings, 6 to other premises (150 YTD); reduction of 27.2% on previous year
- 20 common assaults (281 YTD); 0 serious assaults (YTD not given); 2 robbery & assaults (21 YTD); reduction of 9.9% on previous year
- 0 dangerous driving (7 YTD); 2 drink drivers (16 YTD); 0 driving while disqualified (8 YTD); 0 driving without licence (16 YTD); 1 driving without insurance (44 YTD)
- 14 common thefts (236 YTD), 9 shoplifting (98 YTD), 3 opening lockfast place, i.e. motor-vehicle (46 YTD); 1 theft of a motor-vehicle (71 YTD); 9 theft from MV (86 YTD); 2 attempted theft of MV (18 YTD); reduction in such crimes of dishonesty 12.1% on previous year
- 4 racially aggravated conduct (19 YTD); reduction 9.5% on previous year

### 4.3 Responses to questions, other points

- Statistics for smaller areas can be collated if needed. (This was in response to a question about Abbeyhill – there has been a small spate of youth disorder in this area. A PS specialist team is working on this.)
- Concerning an increase in graffiti (particularly noticeable in the Albert St area), PS is working with residents and owners. CEC will only remove graffiti on its property or in public spaces, or if graffiti is particularly offensive. I McLeod reported that a recent Neighbourhood Partnership meeting was informed that a CEC community safety officer who had been working on graffiti prevention has been being moved to another team and so was no longer undertaking such work. An anti-graffiti day of action is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> April.
- Cllr Donaldson suggested that residents may not report graffiti to PS because such issues are not followed up. Sgt Bull agreed that there is under-reporting. PC Knox is working on this issue but has found no witnesses. PS are patrolling the Abbeyhill area, partly in response to graffiti issues.
- M Traill suggested that LCCC could take an active part in anti-graffiti measures. Cllr Ritchie responded that sales of paint aerosols should be banned, except for proven legitimate needs.
- J Caldwell noted that, about 1 year ago, Crawford Bridge was painted with anti-graffiti paint – does CEC plan to further this tactic? Cllr Ritchie responded that this was a positive step that should be repeated.
- H Tobermann noted that serious crimes are all under 10 per quarter, and hence Leith is quite safe. However, threatening/abusive behaviour crime levels are quite high.
- S Brown noted that there has been an increase in hypodermic needles dumped in Pilrig Park.

## 5 LCCC Office-bearers' reports

### 5.1 Plans and preparations for forthcoming AGM, including progress of LCCC budget for next financial year

H Tobermann noted that LCCC's AGM is on 22 May. It requires a financial report, and will include a brief round-up of LCCC matters for 2016-17. It will also include election of 2017-2018 office-bearers. The usual format is AGM matters, followed by a regular meeting, but could have a special speaker if LCCC members organise this.

### 5.2 New meeting schedule for June 2017 to May 2018

It was agreed *nem con* to continue meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month apart from July and December.

### 5.3 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer noted that all outstanding payments have been made. Current balance is £2637.98

### 5.4 LCCC communications group

#### 5.4.1 Notice board now functional

S Kennedy will now put in notices of meetings and other LCCC material. She has keys, as does the library and the Secretary. However, the noticeboard is due to be moved again due to need to sort underground cables.

#### 5.4.2 Proposal for LCCC to organise local elections hustings

I McLeod suggested that LCCC organises a hustings. It was noted that under Electoral Commission guidelines hustings must be non-selective, i.e. all candidates must be invited. It was noted that LCCC's IndyRef debate markedly increased LCCC's online audience. While there were no volunteers to organise an in-person hustings, J Caldwell offered to organise a written hustings. **ACTIONS: JC TO CIRCULATE DRAFT QUESTIONS TO OTHER LCCC MEMBERS, THEN SEND FINAL QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES. B RYAN (OR ALTERNATIVE) TO POST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON LCCC WEBSITE.**

It was noted that the *Spurtle* hustings will take place on 12 April 7:15 to 9:15 in Broughton St Mary's church. It was suggested that the demographic for this hustings would probably differ from those of other hustings.

M Traill noted that Spokes' hustings feature attendees sat at tables, while candidates circulate from table to table, hence enabling a far more conversational approach.

#### 5.4.3 Data protection of data held by LCCC

B Ryan noted that many councils require their CCs to register with the [Information Commissioner](#) as data holders under the Data Protection Act. He is awaiting pro-bono legal advice (from a community councillor who is also a lawyer) whether CCs need to register. **ACTION: B RYAN TO REGISTER LCCC IF NECESSARY.**

#### 5.4.4 Need to evolve a Twitter policy, if used more actively

B Ryan noted that LCCC developed a [twitter policy](#) in 2014. I McLeod and S Kennedy reported that they are implementing this, i.e. following relevant tweeps, ceasing following irrelevant ones, checking daily for incoming tweets, tweeting relevant information, being ready to respond to incoming questions/comments (none yet).

## 6 Planning

### 6.1 Proposed demolition of warehouse, erection of student accommodation 254 Leith Walk (17/00619/FUL)

H Tobermann noted that this application was a repetition of a previous one that had received several objections, not least because it would overshadow Balfour St, and would add to the area's already large population density. **ACTION: HT TO SUBMIT OBJECTION (AGREED NEM CON)**

**6.2 Two illuminated fascia signs at 16 Bothwell Street EH7 5PS (17/00538/ADV)****6.3 Illuminated fascia signs and projecting sign at 8 Middlefield EH7 4QW (17/00417/ADV)**

HT noted that these are also both about student accommodation. 6-3's sign would actually be on Leith Walk, while 6-2's signs would be non-static. HT has already submitted objections.

**7 Transport****7.1 Leith Walk Programme****7.1.1 Phase 4 (Iona to McDonald): works under way**

- HT noted that this work is going 'reasonably' well, and is due to be completed by the end of July, but that utility companies may start their own work at any time – this might delay work, as had previously occurred with SGN work in this area. HT will take part in a site visit to check the work's quality.
- A Dudley expressed concern about the proposed cycle track on Leith Walk pavement being separated from the pedestrian part by only a tactile marker – he suggested that this would not prevent guide-dogs leading owners into the cycle track when leading their owners around other pedestrians. It was suggested that the marker is augmented by raising it so that cyclists and guide-dogs/owners do not easily stray from their zones. It was noted that CEC is following tested guidelines by installing this type of marker, but that a specialist RNIB team might wish to be involved. ***ACTION: CLLR DONALDSON TO FOLLOW UP AD'S CONCERNS***

**7.1.2 Phase 5 (McDonald to Montgomery): subject to forthcoming hearing**

It was noted that a reporter has not yet been appointed to handle outstanding objections. In the meantime, CEC is continuing the design and tendering processes.

**7.1.3 Phase 6: (Montgomery to pedestrian crossing by Playhouse): early designs**

It was noted that this is due to be completed between December 2019 and June 2021; that designs are at an early stage; that the roundabout is likely to become a T-junction because this is easier to manage, and simpler for pedestrians; and that the 'pigeons' and clock (as in LCCC's logo) will be reinstated.

**7.2 LCCC working group on parking – update**

- I McLeod reported that she has contacted Andrew MacKay, Traffic Orders & Project Development Officer, who responded that enquiries should be sent to [parkingoperations.customercare@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:parkingoperations.customercare@edinburgh.gov.uk) because this can be accessed by [relevant CEC officials].
- Mr MacKay also stated that before commencing an investigation, 'CEC would want to see
  - continued or sustained interest/complaints/enquiries regarding parking problems, pressures, issues with commuters etc, with that interest continuing over a period of time and covering an easily identifiable area; OR
  - an organised approach from local residents, Councillors, Community Council/s indicating interest in parking controls and backed up by evidence of significant support for parking controls; AND
  - evidence of parking pressures on-street that would suggest a justification for introducing parking controls.'

IM suggested LCCC works on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> points. ***ACTION: IM TO WRITE A SHORT PAPER CONTAINING THE WAY FORWARD AGREED BY THE PARKING GROUP AND FURTHER INFORMATION FROM COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR MACKAY. THIS WILL INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR FINDING RESIDENTS' OPINIONS***

It was also suggested that the LCCC group and the ward councillors should meet together with Mr MacKay, but this will not take place until after CEC elections in May.

**7.3 CEC plans to close Leith Street for 44 weeks, possible impact on LCCC area and further mitigating measures**

H Tobermann noted that although this is outwith LCCC's area, it will affect LCCC representees, and that the matter is due to be considered by CEC's T&C committee on 21 March. The closure is due to be from September 2017 to July 2018, i.e. 44 weeks, and is to allow for deep drainage works in the safest, least disruptive manner possible (according to CEC). CEC report and plans are on [LCCC's website](#).

HT expressed concerns about

- bus diversions via Abbeyhill that may well increase journey times considerably, and make access to LCCC's area more difficult
- likely concurrence with phase 5 of Leith Walk works, adding to the Leith St/Walk congestion – this is not mentioned in the Leith St works documentations
- that St James project leaders had said there would be hold-up to LW works
- that traffic modelling for the St James work does not take into account LW works, nor the 200 lorries per day transporting spoil from the St James work
- most of all that there would be no planning gain/compensation to make up for the extra disruption to LCCC's area. Other LCCC members concurred with this concern.

Cllr Ritchie responded that the works are essential, that the proposed MO is the least disruptive possible, that the necessity for sewerage works leading to this closure was unknown until the project broke ground, that the

result would be 'the largest private investment in Scotland ... a world-class precinct', that an extra £6m will be spent to fix and upgrade facilities in the area, and that the developers have no obligation to compensate.

J Hein suggested inconvenience might be reduced by delaying Leith Walk phase 5 until Leith St is completed. It was also suggested that

- the Leith St works could be shortened by working more hours and days per week
- a drop-off point for Waverley Station that will be affected by the works should be reinstated elsewhere
- LCCC could produce a chart of when Leith Walk and Leith St works would coincide, so that residents and others could be informed of likely combined disruptions
- whatever occurred, the result should be a better road surface than Princes St, which is already cracking
- that CEC has a conflict of interest because it has borrowed money from the Scottish Government, which it plans to repay from increased rateable value
- that public transport issues should be ameliorated with shuttle busses (Lothian buses) and taxi-ranks.

It was agreed to meet with representatives of St James work to discuss this closure.

#### **7.4 CEC consultation on Pilrig Street pedestrian crossing**

Because she has not heard back about this: [ACTION: SECRETARY TO CHASE UP RESPONSES](#)

### **8 Environment**

**8.1 Issues at interface between new development at Stanwell Street/Pilrig Park, correspondence with developer**  
S Brown reported that there has been damage caused by development but outwith the developer's area. FoPP is attempting to get the developers to make good for this. She noted that the developer has agreed to cover 50% of the costs for some repairs. However 'section 75' money is also being used to cover these costs [rather than being used for normal planning gain]. It was suggested that CEC should be – but is not – enforcing developers to make up for such problems.

#### **8.2 Friends of Parks Report/s**

##### **8.2.1 Friends of Pilrig Park**

The recent litter-pick was successful, but otherwise PP was 'business as usual'. It was noted that deep tyre-tracks near the path were caused by bin lorries, so bins have been removed to prevent recurrence.

##### **8.2.2 Friends of Montgomery Street Park**

No report

##### **8.2.3 Update on contact with other Friends groups: Dalmeny Street and Hillside**

No reports

### **9 Councillors' reports, MSPs' reports, MP's report**

#### **9.1 Cllr Donaldson**

- She noted that she has been involved with the [Edinburgh North Community Manifesto](#). In this process, 3 questions were asked: (1) What do we want for Edinburgh North & Leith? (2) What changes will make life better for people of all ages? (3) How can we work together to achieve positive change? This resulted in four priorities: environment, building, social care, childcare. This then led to the community manifesto, which is cross-party.
- London Rd Church will be sold: a meeting about a bid to buy it for a community centre is on 26 April at 7pm.

### **10 Open Forum**

L Moore noted that an area near Bowling Green St is being cleared for housing. This is likely to divert the Water of Leith path away from the actual WoL. [ACTION: LM TO SHARE FURTHER INFORMATION AS SHE RECEIVES IT.](#)

### **11 Bulletin**

#### **11.1 Closure of John Lewis depot in Bonnington**

This closure was noted.

### **12 AOCB**

- It was noted that building in Shrubhill Tram Depot Development is encroaching on railway land, contrary to approved plans, and that (contrary to Leith St) work has been proceeding 24/7.
- B Ryan proposed using LCCC as a test-bed of how Cllrs and residents see each other, research funding permitting. (Agreed *nem con*)

### **13 Future meetings (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month) and meeting topics/presentations**

#### **13.1 Future meetings: 17 April 2017, 22 May 2017.**

#### **13.2 Future presentations/discussions**

date TBC: North East Locality Manager Natalie McKail (or maternity cover)