

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 15 August 2016 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 Introduction, attendance and apologies

1.1 Attendance			
Roberto Colasuonno	LCCC	Ben McPhearson	MSP
Katherine Chisholm	LCCC	Alan McIntosh	Broughton Spurtle
Jack Caldwell	Resident	Charlotte Encombe	Secretary
Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice-chair LCCC	Anne Finlay	Treasurer
Nick Davies	Police Scotland	Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Michael Trail	Resident	CLr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Lorraine Moore	LCCC	Joe Faraday	Resident
Michael Gish	Resident	Michael Pisanek	LCCC
Liz Ballantyne	Resident		

1.2 Apologies			
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Andy Whiteman	MSP
Deirdre Brock	MP	Stan Eadie	LCCC
Jeremy Darot	LCCC	Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (NSP)

### 2 Minutes of Meetings 18 April and 20 June 2016

- 2.1 **Approval. The minutes were approved with no changes (proposed C Encombe, seconded L Moore, *nem con*).**  
**Re item 13a:** A consultation asking the public's views on new flight paths for Edinburgh Airport could only be accessed by people with relevant post codes.  
**Re item 6.4.2 from 18 April 2016: To be discussed at next meeting**

### 3 Matters Arising

None

### 4 Community Police Officer's Report

**Activities:** In the last month the police visited 140 licenced premises. One is still being monitored in respect to selling alcohol to minors. Foreign motorcycles in particular have been targeted by thieves, especially when insufficiently secured. In response, using a decoy motorcycle, 3 people have been caught trying to steal a motorcycle. The police are also making the public aware of the 20mph speed limit to be introduced in Feb 2017.

**Statistics April-July 2016:**

Crime was down by 11% from last year	
Domestic break-ins	24
Business break-ins	29
Non-violent house break-ins	6 (sheds etc)
Minor assault	228
Shoplifting	85
Motor Vehicle theft	25
Break-in motor vehicle	9
Car theft unsecured	13
Hate crime	6 ( 5 resolved)

An LCCC member reported that there were drug deals taking place outside the Tourmalet pub. The police to contact witness and investigate. It was agreed that, although largely unreported until recently, hate crime was coming down year to year. In answer to the question about how many fines had been handed out for exceeding the new speed limits, N Davies said three in the City Centre, as the scheme is cheap to implement but expensive to enforce. Another resident reported having difficulty in handing in a found wallet at Leith police station. N Davies thought that there were not sufficient resources available to man a public desk.

### 5 Office Bearers' Reports

**Treasurer:** Current balance: £3037.98. Annual CEC grant of £1049.06 has just been received. Recent expenses £20 Leith Festival tent hire. It was agreed to look at becoming members of the Cockburn Association at £45pa approximately. Also A McIntosh to provide advertising rates for the Spurtle for LCCC advert. It was agreed to make a budget proposal for the next 12 months how the money should be spent. AGREED NEM CON.

**Vice Chair:** Community Council elections are due. Nominations for individual members and community groups are open from 5-26 September by 4pm 2016 and details of how to apply can be found on [//leithcentralcc.co.uk/2016/09/04/community-council-elections-forms-and-posters/](http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2016/09/04/community-council-elections-forms-and-posters/)

## 6 Planning

**A: planning system inconsistencies and lack of enforcement in Cambridge Avenue.** M Gush ([report](#) attached) highlighted the problems of inconsistencies over recent planning decisions for nr 6-8 (joined to form a guest house) and 18 Cambridge Avenue, possibly partly due to the fact that different officers handled each application. It was agreed that the rules are being flaunted even though Pilrig is now a conservation area. K Chisholm reported a similar situation in the Abbey Hill colonies; discrepancies on planning approval setting wrong precedents and alterations being carried out without planning permission. Another issue is lack of Enforcement although there is a case going through at the moment. A McIntosh felt it was due to constant casework overload at the planning department. The motion to raise LCCC concerns about planning inconsistencies was unanimously accepted. H Tobermann to write to the Planning Department. Meanwhile a revised application for Nr 18 Cambridge Avenue has been submitted. AGREED NEM CON

For further reading and the latest Edinburgh Council regulations published in February 2016: [Listed Building and Conservation Areas](#)

**B: Shrub Place/Shrub Hill Piecemeal applications.** This is a problem with large developers who know how to play the system. In the case of Shrub Place piecemeal alterations in planning permission are being sought, notably an internal alteration to accommodate the incorrect levels outside the building.

**C: LIDL in Easter Road** Their application for a large store are being resurrected. Cllr Donaldson represented the community at a recent meeting. It was agreed that the changes were trivial and did not address LCCC's original concerns.

**D: More student accommodation:** There is another application for student accommodation on Leith Walk – the Akdeniz Supermarket. Cllr Blacklock reported that purpose build student accommodation gives fewer complaints, there is a great demand as universities are expanding. H Tobermann noted that there is a study on-going to establish what a reasonable proportion of accommodation should be reserved for students. C Encombe noted that student accommodation tends to become hotel accommodation for about 4 months of the year, especially during the busy summer months, so its impact on the local community is greater and more complex than it would appear on the face of it.

**E: Planning application for Off Street parking in Pilrig Street (16/03215/FUL):** objection to formation of front garden car parking space was submitted. Planning permission was refused.

**F: Hotel to become family accommodation:** It was agreed to submit qualified support for Change of use from existing 4 storey Capital Residence Hotel into a 5 bedroom townhouse and a separate 2 bedroom apartment at basement level at 27 Pilrig Street Edinburgh EH6 5AN (16/03261/FUL)

## 7 Transport

**A: Leith Walk Programme Phase 5 (Brunswick St to Montgomery) invitation to comment on TRO/16/58 prior to formal advertisement.** See Stakeholders Report

**B:** It was agreed, in view of the high residential density of LCCC area, to support in principle all future CEC proposals for **on-street car club spaces.**

**C: failed street lighting at/near key junctions with Leith Walk (Annandale, McDonald), reported on 8 August 2016 highlighting negative impact on pedestrian and cyclist safety** COUNCILLORS TO LOOK INTO THIS

## 8 Environment

**A:** Barrow beat routes in Edinburgh ([analysis of CEC information](#)) Charts do not always conform with reality and given that the LCCC ward still scores lowly in the cleanliness league, LCCC would like to see an increased service

in the area. M Trail pointed out that there were many streets in Edinburgh that are now 'adopted' by the people living on them who maintain them.

**B:** Friends of Parks Report. none

## **9 Councillors' Reports, MSP Report, MP Report**

**M Donaldson** reported she has been raising awareness of child poverty in the area, which in Leith Walk Ward is 26%. Cost of schooling is about £800 per child pa and 2 out of 3 children have one working parent; she visited Inspiring Hillside, a community garden who would like a coffee hut.

**A Blacklock** has asked for a presentation of 18 Cambridge Avenue (see item 6.A); planning approval was given for McDonald Place (11 flats proposed with 100% parking provision within the site) which attracted a lot of comments; the City Deal – recently announced government funding of £2billion appears still to be on the cards despite Brexit;

**B McPhearson** encourages to bring any concerns about justice and/or policing to him as he sits on the Justice Committee; planning – there is a new planning bill on the way, please let him have any concerns you may have; FYI he sits also on the Social Security Committee; he is working with the Lorne Street community some of whom are facing eviction. The parties are working together to find a resolution. Ben would like it to be known that he is always happy for anyone to get in touch with him.

## **10 Open Forum**

C Encombe suggested to form a sub group to look into the possibility of bringing regulated parking into the area. She will report back at the next meeting.

## **11 AOCB** none

## **12 Dates of Future Meetings (3rd Monday of the month):**

The following proposed dates were agreed for 2016: 19 September: Paul Lawrence, new Executive Director "Place". 17 October, 21 November, 19 December, 16 January 2017, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 22 May, 19 June AGM.