

## Minutes of the Meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 19 September 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	Mizan Rahman	Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council
Katherine Chisholm	LCCC	Adrian Graham	Leith Links CC
Jeremy Darot	LCCC	Ella Taylor-Smith	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC secretary	Liz Ballantyne	Resident
Anne Finlay	LCCC treasurer	Yvonne Bruce	resident
John Hein	LCCC chair	Jack Caldwell	Resident
Lorraine Moore	LCCC	Camino Fracassini	Resident
Julian Siann	LCCC	Michael Gish	Resident
Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice-chair	Ross McEwan	Resident
Cllr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Frances McKay	Resident
Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Iona McLeod	Resident
Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)	Anthony Olowoyeye	Resident
Deirdre Brock	MP	Helen Skulina	Resident
Paul Lawrence	CEC	Michael Trail	Resident
Rob Leech	CEC responsible for tram works		

#### 1.2 Apologies

Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (NSP)
Ben McPherson	MSP	Anne Finlay	Treasurer

### 2 Minutes of Meetings 15 August 2016

- The minutes were approved with no changes (proposed C Encombe, seconded J Caldwell, *nem con*).
- 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

No one from the police was available as they were in the process of carrying out an operation. HT has found some quarterly crime statistics and will ask the police to provide them on a monthly basis.

### 5 Presentation Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place (CEC) on Leith Walk Issues and opportunities

According to Paul Lawrence (PL) he is responsible for bins, traffic, housing, potholes, economic development, planning and pretty much anything else that residents are likely to get unhappy about. His job has come about as a result of slimming down of senior management and his department was created to provide support for people, place and the corporate section. He identifies the Leith wards as communities where he can be of service, especially with all the developments that are taking place; finding a successful balance between residential and commercial development, independent retail and mixed tenure communities such as exist on and around Leith Walk. He wants to protect the flavour of the neighbourhood and acknowledges that some of the CEC-led projects – in particular the tram works – have caused major problems in the community. He warns of more potentially problematic projects to come – St James Centre development and related traffic issues – and asserts that these hurdles can be overcome if these issues are addressed correctly using planning, licensing and housing legislation. Place making is his job; combining all the ingredients that make a great place. Coordinated and working together properly, his task is to make Leith Walk and surroundings – a part of Edinburgh that is at the centre of the action - a successful community. Contrary to various news items he does not accept that Leith Walk is the dirtiest street in Scotland.

#### 5.1 Q and A

A Graham: 1) When will the clock - originally on Picardy Place - come back? PL did not know when. 2) Canon Mills development can PL revert the decision to build there? PL will look into it. 3) Map of St James works is inadequate. PL will be meeting with Hendersons and will address the issue with him as there is general unhappiness regarding information to the community about the works, which could start before Christmas 2016.

H Tobermann: Thought Henderson's presentation to LCCC wasn't too bad but he was surprised that minutiae of the logistics (demolition/building materials needing to be transported to Leith Docks) had not been worked out, which would lead to serious disruption. HT also argued that apart from mitigating the impact on the community there is a good case for financial compensation to the community (as with John Lewis) since we will bear the brunt of any traffic disruption, air pollution, etc for the next 4 years. He also emphasised how important it will be that CEC pursues and enforces any penalty clauses in the contracts.

J Siann: mentioned the first part of the Leith Programme (Foot of the Walk to Pilrig Street), how the contractors' work was below standard and the role he and other LCCC volunteers played in its delivery; they were critical in forcing the contractors to deliver higher quality work, something that he felt would otherwise not have been followed up. With the next phase coming up he is concerned that there has been little contact between the council and the stakeholder group and he wonders how this will affect progress. In addition at the moment all Leith Walk's side roads to Easter Road have been blocked off and congestion is starting to build up, especially in Dalmeny Street, the only road still open. This is not helped by double parked vehicles which can do so without getting fined. CE commented that the stakeholder reports are now being sent out regularly but there still is only limited face to face interaction with the community. Rob Leech promised to improve this situation. JS would like to have the opportunity to inspect the works once in progress. HT asserted that the information exchange has improved now RL is in charge.

RL informed the council that Phase 4 of the Leith Programme has now started. Gas pipes are being replaced for the next 8 weeks, the pavement in front of Shrub Place is being replaced and Pilrig Junction starts on 10 October. Phase 5, the McDonald Road to Annandale Road phase will start in Spring next year. He would like to hear the public's view on any of the works and have an on-going dialogue.

The area around John Lewis traffic congestion is a major issue, and combining commercial traffic and private cars needs to be worked out in advance in more detail. C Encombe : Articulated lorries are now contributing to extreme congestion in Pilrig Street and all the way up to John Lewis; is there any way that these can be confined to non-peak hours. PL agrees but it has to be a political conversation as it cannot go on.

HT: Phase 5 was going to have some temporary surface treatment because the holes in the tarmac are causing traffic accidents, particularly with bicycles. RL hopefully this will be done before 2017 but there have been problems in the tender process because the work has to take place at night and they couldn't get anyone to tender.

Clr Nick Gardner: Leith is the most densely populated area in Scotland. This causes particular stress on resources; parking, housing, urban management. Is anything being done about this? PL: There is a severe housing shortage and he would like to increase the population density in Leith as this is the route to sustainable cities as set out in the newly implemented City Vision. CCCs need to get better understanding how this locality management works and he will arrange for someone to give the CC a presentation. Work has been on-going with HOBSCO who have been working with public sector providers to see whether any rationalisation is desirable/probable. The old tram depot on Leith Walk has been identified as a possible hub for public neighbourhood facilities but unfortunately there are no budgets for this as yet. According to Andrew Kerr, the CEO of CEC, there is no long-term vision/direction for Edinburgh. He wants to publish a public policy document 'Edinburgh 2050' sometime in 2017 so that even if administrations change in the future, the vision can be embedded in public policy for time to come. CCs need to be part of that dialogue.

Iona McCleod: considers the city very dirty. PL: waste dominates my inbox, it is my number one priority, I know it needs to be improved. C Encombe: the messy arrangements in front of the pavements on Shrub Hill need to be controlled more tightly. PL: Promises to have a look at it.

## 6 Formalities

### 6.1 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports

**Vice Chair:** Proposed budget OCT2016-SEP2017

	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Notes
Balance brought forward			2033.92	
Minutes February		45.00	1988.92	late invoice?
CEC Grant	1049.06		3037.98	received
10 x £60 monthly minutes		600.00	2437.98	already committed
Wordpress annual fees		25.00	2412.98	already committed
Cockburn Association		50.00	2362.98	proposed
Spurtle and online advert		60.00	2302.98	proposed
Website/computer misc		100.00	2202.98	estimated
Stationery		25.00	2177.98	proposed
Guest Speaker fee		50.00	2127.98	proposed
Contingency		100.00	2027.98	estimated

Minutes fee B Ryan 7 x £50		350.00	<b>1677.98</b>	agreed at meeting of 19/9/2016
<b>Total projected income</b>	<b>1049.06</b>			
<b>Total projected expenditure</b>	<b>1055.00</b>			

**Secretary:** that Bruce Ryan will be paid the £50pm fee for the months that he was ill up to September 2016 and that from October 2016 his fee will go to £60pm. [AGREED NEM CON](#)

## 6.2 Community Council Elections:

Clr Ritchie is the returning officer. Closing date for nomination on 26 September. There will be a total of 16 seats available and in case there are more nominations there will be an election in October.

## 7 Planning

In view of high residential density of most of the LCCC area the CC it was agreed to object in principal against any 'super-high' density developments such as high-rise flats, hotels/student accommodation. This is not because of the number of people in the area, but the lack of accessible resources such as schools, medical centres, green spaces, street cleanliness, infrastructure, etc. Currently these are not sufficient to sustain a more dense population. [AGREED NEM CON](#)

## 8 Transport

### 8.1 Leith Walk Programme

Already covered above. HT reminded the meeting that better tarmac surfaces for Leith Walk should be in place by the end of 2017 and that any works on Leith Walk should be kept tidier as barriers can be knocked over easily or get blown away by wind. R McEwan observed that penalties are too small for the contractors to worry about. RL will keep an eye on this.

### 8.2 Failed street lighting

All lights have now been fixed except Annandale Rd where CEC want to remove the existing lighting. HT proposes to write to ask for it not to be removed.

### 8.3 Correspondence regarding Cityfibre and other Public Utility Companies allowed to dig up streets at will

Council has now established a lists of contractors and how many holes there are, but Cityfibre are not on this list. HT to write asking how this will be resolved: Sites: Elm Street and the Gaelic School on Bonnington Road.

## 9 Friends of Parks' Reports:

### 9.1 Montgomery Park

had a good work day planted trees and did litter picking, the park looks much better. Next event Halloween 31 October. Next meeting on 30 November – they need help planning their summer fair. Pilrig Park RSPB Mini Beast hunt event was very successful. Next meeting AGM 10 October 2016 6-7.30pm.

### 9.2 Buddleia problems on Dryden Street bridge now owned by Places for People.

PforP have undertaken to clear it up in conjunction with Network Rail. The old tram depot, a listed building, should also be protected and cleared of Buddleias. This is another case of making sure that CEC enforces existing legislation. [CLR N GARDNER TO FOLLOW UP](#)

## 10 Councillors', MSPs', and MPs' reports

### 10.1 Clr M Donaldson

CC notice board ready to be moved to its correct location. Secure on-street cycle parking a report about a pilot scheme will be going before the Council. **Barrow beat maps** to be put on the LCCC website. MD has been looking into how to facilitate better communication within the health sector in a meeting with health centres, third sector providers and health practitioners. She participated in a clean up in Montgomery Park with Hibs coordinating the event. She visited the 'Colony of Artists' event at Abbey Hill, and arts/ music event, the streets were deep cleaned by the residents in advance and the weeds removed by the council. **Clr N Gardner** did walkabout around the neighbourhood with new locations area manager Natalie McCail. He has been trying to arrange a meeting with Hendersons (new St James' Centre). He also wants to have a look at the –in his opinion- inadequate street lighting in Dalmeny Street and observe the anti-social behaviour in the park. **MP D Brock** is now on the Scottish Affairs Committee which will investigate the effect of Brexit and changing demography. Spoke with Agnes Hunter Trust re Lorne Community Association. Hopefully there will be good news soon

## 11 Open Forum

### 11.1 Regulated parking in Leith.

A lively discussion followed with various individuals coming up with arguments in favour and against. [TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA NEXT MONTH.](#)

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

The following proposed dates were agreed for 2016: 21 November, 19 December, 16 January 2017, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 22 May, 19 June AGM.