

## Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in Nelson Hall, McDonald Road library on Monday 21 November 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 Welcome, introduction, attendance and apologies

Cllr Ritchie welcomed everyone to the meeting, then chaired until the election of office bearers (item 3 below).

#### 1.1 Attendance

Jack Caldwell	LCCC	Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Roberto Colasuonno	LCCC	Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary
Jeremy Darot	LCCC	Sophie Brown	Friends of Pilrig Park
Alan Dudley	LCCC	Brian Matheson	resident
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC	Anne Finlay	resident
Darius Garab	LCCC	Ella Taylor Smith	<i>Broughton Spurtle</i>
Andrew Harlick	LCCC	Michael Traill	Leith Links CC
Sheila Kennedy	LCCC	PC Paul McNiven	Police Scotland
Iona McLeod	LCCC	PC Margo Darling	Police Scotland
Lorraine Moore	LCCC	Cllr Marion Donaldson	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Damian Sefton	LCCC	Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Julian Siann	LCCC	Cllr Lewis Ritchie	Leith Walk ward (SNP)

#### 1.2 Apologies

John Hein LCCC | Ben Macpherson MSP Edinburgh Northern & Leith (SNP)

### 2 Election results (details of nominated and elected members)

There were 17 valid nominations but 1 another candidate withdrew, so all 16 elected places were filled.

Cllr Ritchie asked for local interest groups to nominate their representatives.

***ACTION: B RYAN TO INVITE LOCAL GROUPS VIA WEBSITE***

### 3 Election of office-bearers and other formalities

Only one person was nominated for each main post, and hence each was elected *nem con*.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
<i>Chairperson</i>	John Hein	Charlotte Encombe	Jack Caldwell
<i>Vice-chairperson</i>	Harald Tobermann	Jack Caldwell	Julian Siann
<i>Secretary</i>	Charlotte Encombe	Harald Tobermann,	Roberto Coluassono
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lorraine Moore	Harald Tobermann	Jack Caldwell

Other positions and subcommittees (e.g. planning) were held over

- Edinburgh standing orders and constitution for CCs were adopted *nem con*.
- Pending changeover of bank signatories, Anne Finlay was asked to continue signing cheques.
- New (and old) Cllrs were encouraged to go to training provided by Edinburgh Council (CEC) in early Dec.

### 4 Minutes of 19 September 2016 meeting (no October meeting)

Approved *nem con* subject to correcting the number of places for elected members in LCCC (item 6b) to 16.

#### 4.1 Matters arising not included in agenda

***APRIL MINUTES ISSUE CARRIED FORWARD TO DECEMBER***

### 5 Community Police Officer's Report

PCs McNiven & Darling apologised for lack of police representation at the last meeting – they were called to a serious operation at the last minute.

The PCs commented on press reports of cuts to Edinburgh policing: the number of Edinburgh community police officers (CPOs) has been cut. However, when were CPOs first created, they also had to take on 'response' duties. Now there are 3 teams of CPOs comprising 10 officers. CPOs are now dedicated 'local beat bobbies', doing only 'community' duties. There is a review of all Police Scotland estate, however no decisions have been taken yet, although Leith Police Station is not currently fit for purpose. PCs McNiven & Darling do not work in Leith Central CC's area, so LCCC will soon get to know 'its' CPOs.

#### 5.1 Area crime statistics August and September, October 2016 by crime group

The PCs noted that crime numbers are down: this is due to use of community intelligence, proactivity etc. H Tobermann has submitted a FOISA request for crime statistics, and requested that they are reported consistently at each meeting. He noted that previously statistics were read out (but not given in writing) making it difficult for LCCC to analyse trends. The PCs handed a restricted document to HT as vice-chair. The

PCS suggested that it was unlikely for such details to be passed on electronically. The PCs reported and commented on the following crime statistics (since the end of September)

- 3 serious assaults
- 3 robberies
- 17 attempted or actual break-ins to houses and other properties
- 15 vehicle crimes
- 21 'extra' fire-raising/malicious mischief crimes. This is better than some other areas, although not good.
- 46 miscellaneous offences (public order offences, breach of the peace, common assaults etc)
- 1 drink-driving offence arrest but it is likely to get worse over Xmas. There will be specialist patrols.

## 5.2 Questions and answers

Is it likely that more HBs will occur at winter/in dark? Many break-ins are aided by tools left in gardens. The PCs' role includes stopping people leaving themselves vulnerable.

B Matheson reported disappointment with police reactions to a cycle-theft. M Traill noted that this theft was in Leith Links CCs' area, so Mr Matheson could contact them. H Tobermann asked whether police complaint procedures had been exhausted. Cllr Ritchie suggested that while CCs cannot act here, Edinburgh councillors can, and will, e.g. by contacting the community safety team.

## 6 LCCC office-bearers' reports

No reports

## 7 Planning

### 7.1 Slow progress of enforcement request re student housing used for holiday lets, report on short-stay commercial leisure apartments

H Tobermann noted that holiday-makers are more likely to bring cars than students, thus increasing traffic pressures, and that a report to CEC on such lets is due. (Noting this report was agenda item 8b.)

### 7.2 Application to demolish warehouse and create student accommodation at 254 Leith Walk (16/05476/FUL)

An objection will be lodged following current LCCC policy to do so until CEC creates appropriate infrastructure. It was also noted that LCCC's area already contains much student housing, that there is some public objection to this application, that this is a 'fast track' decision for CEC, that 6 objections are required for any application to automatically go before CEC's planning committee, and that a cllr then needs to ask to debate it.

### 7.3 Response by CEC Arboricultural Officer, in reply to Conservation Area query regarding Shrub Place trees

H Tobermann noted that he had received several calls about the removal of these trees during building work, but had found that planning permission allows such removals, even if they are in a conservation area. However the planning permission stipulates that the removed trees must be replaced with semi-mature oaks.

### 7.4 Other local planning issues

It was noted that CEC has cut down trees on Balfour St, which leads into Pilrig Park, thus diminishing its visual appeal. However at least one of the trees may have been threatening underground services. H Tobermann suggested asking CEC to explain exactly why these trees were cut down. Cllr Ritchie is also pursuing this issue.

The issue over 8/6 Cambridge Avenue B&B will go to CEC's planning committee.

Lidl's application has been approved, but Lidl still needs to apply for liquor license. It was suggested that this version of the application was not sufficiently conforming to community consultation, and is too big. Cllr Gardner suggested that it was approved because 'it just about fitted all the requirements' and would fill a gap site. It was noted that were issues with planning system at the time, thus possibly preventing objections.

### 7.5 SESplan

J Siann has submitted his own comments because LCCC did not meet in time to do so. He has received a response that even though a number of Edinburgh CCs couldn't comment because they were going through election-related hiatuses, this was 'hard luck' – Edinburgh is just one of 6 LAs within SESplan's area. JS suggested that Edinburgh is the major LA in SESplan's area, and that SESplan would severely affect Edinburgh, including more housing without considering the high population density in this area, causing pressure on social services. JS also noted that SESPlan includes development of Leith Docks for housing, yet coastal developments will become expensive due to climate change

## 8 Transport

### 8.1 Update on local transport issues on Leith Walk: phases 4 and 5 of Leith Walk (LW) programme; temporary patching works; SGN works, Virgin Cable works, Places for People works

HT noted that these works are delaying phase 4 but by June LW between Pilrig St and Iona should have been renewed, and that LCCC has lobbied for patching works for more northerly parts of LW. Patching has started

from Picardy Place and is due to reach McDonald Road by Christmas. (See also CEC updates on LCCC website.) It was noted that some-lamp-posts may be in the middle of a cycle-path, and suggested that such issues may contribute to uncaring cyclists cycling on pavements.

### 8.2 TRO\16\58 and R SO\16\13 Leith Walk Phase 5 - finishes 25 Nov 2016

It was suggested that the controversial part of these TROs is the potential closure of Montgomery Street to car ingress, and that this would affect Brunswick St, which is already in poor condition, Iona St and Dalmeny St. It was noted that the LW programme does not cover LW's side roads. Cllr Ritchie noted that there have been stakeholder meetings during the whole LW programme, that he is on the oversight group and so has seen traffic flow live modelling, and stated that the current designs are not 'piecemeal', that there has been consultation and that the current plans are the best possible compromise of the various pressures on the area.

It was noted that Iona St joins with LW in the phase 4 area, and this area's plans are already decided, so a new process would be needed to fix any issues. However phase 5 plans are still changeable to some extent, although HT suggested that fixing LW as a major thoroughfare is the most important consideration.

Cllr Gardner noted that D Ryan is the new locality roads manager and hence a key person to contact.

### 8.3 Objection to reorganisation of Montgomery junction and loading restrictions outside nearby shops

Current plans include creating more space for pedestrians, a better pedestrian crossing, cycle-parking and better surfacing, rationalising street furniture etc. It was noted that currently many cars 'zigzag' from Annandale St, so these plans will calm matters for Montgomery St, and that parking 'offences' in Edinburgh are currently 'decriminalised' unless they lead to safety issues. However, this may cause issues with Elm Row and Albert St etc. [A MOTION FOR LCCC TO OBJECT TO THE CURRENT PLANS WAS DEFEATED](#)

### 8.4 New 'quiet' cycle route across city

J Caldwell noted that this is a big overhaul of cycling in Edinburgh, and encouraged everyone to be involved.

## 9 Environment

### 9.1 Friends of Parks reports

No report

### 9.2 Lack of progress of buddleia problems at Dryden Street listed buildings and Dryden Street rail bridge

Cllr Gardner is chasing this up, but has not yet received satisfactory responses. Although the plant-growing season is over, it was suggested that some damage will have been caused.

## 10 Councillors' reports, MSPs' reports, MP's report

### 10.1 Cllr Gardner

- Pile-driving on Shrub Hill site should end Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, weather permitting
- He suggested that LCCC invites St James project leaders to inform it (and residents) in a proximate meeting.
- Leith's Christmas lighting ceremony will take place at 4pm on December 1, at the foot of the walk, Kirkgate.

### 10.2 Cllr Donaldson

- She is helping pilot a scheme to fill gaps in GP provision – pharmacies can apparently deal with some matters hence reducing pressure on GPs.
- Edinburgh is a capital city that has a coast, so she has proposed a hop-on, hop-off bus service from the city centre to coast via LW – this might help LW's economy. Lothian Bus is considering this idea.
- Some mystery paper sculptures have been gifted to city. A final one has been gifted to the central library.

## 11 Open Forum

C Encombe has contacted a relevant CEC official, who responded that for CEC to consider parking regulation, they'd need for public expressions of reasons for control. Then they would consult over which form of control would be needed. LCCC members and residents were requested to contact CE if they are interested in this.

[ACTION: CE TO BLOG ABOUT THIS ON LCCC'S WEBSITE](#)

R Colasuonno is investigating double-parking on LW and Albert Street.

## 12 Bulletin

Press reports regarding Leith Police Station - see item 5 above.

## 13 AOCB

### 13.1 Future meeting dates and topics/presentations

19 December 2016, 16 January 2017, 20 February 2017, 20 March 2017, 17 April 2017, 22 May 2017.

- date TBA: North East Locality Manager Natalie McKail (or maternity cover)
- December: presentation on proposed residential development at Bonnington Mills, 70-74 Newhaven Road (Cruden Homes/Buccleuch Property) by Doug Fraser (Gilberts)