

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in Nelson Hall, McDonald Road library on Monday 24 April 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.

In the chair's absence, the meeting was chaired by the secretary.

1 Attendance and apologies

1.1 Attendance

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Jack Caldwell | LCCC | Harald Tobermann | LCCC vice chair and candidate for Leith Walk ward |
| Katherine Chisholm | LCCC | Bruce Ryan | Minutes secretary |
| Roberto Colasuonno | LCCC | Alan McIntosh | <i>Broughton Spurtle</i> |
| Alan Dudley | LCCC | Clr Marion Donaldson | Leith Walk ward (Labour) |
| Charlotte Encombe | LCCC secretary | Alun Melville | candidate for Leith Walk ward |
| Darius Garab | LCCC | Cristina Marga | candidate for Leith Walk ward |
| Sheila Kennedy | LCCC | Vita Zaporozcenko | candidate for Leith Walk ward |
| Iona McLeod | LCCC | PC Fiona Brown | Police Scotland |
| Lorraine Moore | LCCC treasurer | PC Lauren Mitchell | Police Scotland |
| Julian Siann | LCCC | 1 resident | |

1.2 Apologies

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jeremy Darot | LCCC | Gavin Rankin | LCCC |
| Andrew Harlick | LCCC | Deidre Brock MP | Edinburgh North & Leith |
| John Hein | LCCC chair | Ben Macpherson MSP | Edinburgh Northern & Leith (SNP) |

2 Approval of minutes of 20 March 2017 meeting

These were approved subject to correcting a typo in item 10 (proposed J Siann, seconded L Moore, *nem con*)

3 Matters arising from previous minutes not in agenda

- Item 5.4.3: B Ryan is awaiting legal advice on whether CCs need to register under the Data Protection Act
- Item 7.1.1: A Dudley and Clr Donaldson reported that CEC states it consulted with RNIB and Living streets over provision for visually impaired pedestrians (i.e. tactile paving between footpaths and cycle-routes), but RNIB state they have not agreed with CEC's proposals. ***ACTION: AD AND CLLR D TO PURSUE THIS MATTER.***
 - A resident reported that CEC will not install tactile paving at certain junctions where pedestrians have right of way, while tactile paving would imply it was for them to stop and make way for vehicles.
- Item 7.4: J Siann reported that CEC had successfully consulted with residents about a pedestrian crossing in Pilrig St, gaining 87 responses. 50% felt that a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the street was best. Further consultation is due, followed by a TRO, so it is may be about a year before get physical work starts.
- Meeting dates for 2017-18 will be circulated when they are finally agreed with the library.
- It was requested that an member responded to a letter about licensing for a shop at 126 Salamander St.
- The secretary reported that she is now a signatory for LCCC's bank account.

4 Community Police Officer's Report

PCs Brown and Mitchell reported that:

- March crime statistics have not yet been released. (A quarterly update is due in May.)
- Policing priorities are violent crime, antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, antisocial driving and break-ins.
- Operation Soteria is combatting motorcycle theft by advising vulnerable owners and businesses (e.g. B&Bs hosting motorcyclists) about security. CPOs have identified 14 vulnerable motorcycles and apprehended people trying to sell a stolen motorcycle.
 - A resident noted reporting juveniles riding 2 motorcycles in Pilrig Park, but that police had taken over 40 minutes to respond to her call. The PCs replied that one of the bikes had been found and returned.
- Concerning graffiti and litter
 - A clean-up took place on Earth Day, involving [Leithers don't Litter](#)
 - PC Knox has requested LCCC helps fund a pressure washer and gloves, which would be available at the library for use by the community. It was noted that several local businesses have graffiti-cleaning kits which should be accessible to the community, and that these should used. ***ACTIONS: J CALDWELL TO CONTACT A BUSINESS KNOWN TO HAVE SUCH A KIT, L MOORE TO CONSIDER WHETHER LCCC CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS REQUEST.***
 - It was suggested that while CEC is responsible for cleaning litter and graffiti, a litter pick provide valuable publicity for LCCC.
 - A male has been arrested and charged with graffiti vandalism.

- CPOs are patrolling early in mornings to advise vagrants sleeping in common stairs and walkways where they can stay.
- CPOs are now all trained to use hand-held 'speed-guns', and have been checking for 20mph compliance in Arthur St and other locations.
- CPOs do check for double-parked cars and will ticket them if they create obstructions, and are patrolling the colonies for parking issues.

5 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 Preparations for forthcoming AGM

- Treasurer has almost finished creating LCCC's 2016-17 financial report. This and her budget ideas for 2017-18 will be presented at the AGM (22 May, 7pm in McDonald Road library).
- It was suggested that votes might be by secret ballot, instead of show of hands.
- **ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO INVITE A SPEAKER RE LEITH STREET CLOSURE.** This and other urgent/important business (e.g. crime statistics) to be handled after the formal AGM business.

5.2 Meetings for June 2017 - May 2018

See item 3, point 4 above

5.3 Treasurer's report

See item 5.1 point 1 above

5.4 LCCC communications group - recent and planned activities (incl expenditure)

5.4.1 Status of notice board, virtual local elections hustings

- It was reported that the noticeboard will not be moved after all.
- 5 candidates for Leith Walk ward have submitted the main points of their campaigns. (All 10 were invited.) These are now on the noticeboard. **ACTION: J CALDWELL TO SUPPLY RESPONSES TO B RYAN, TO PUT ON WEBSITE.**

5.4.2 Handover of register of LCCC digital assets and day to day management, including emails for all office bearers

It was noted that B Ryan is the de facto sole admin, apart from LCCC email addresses (admin H Tobermann), and that currently LCCC can only have a very few email addresses. **ACTION: J CALDWELL TO BECOME ADDITIONAL ADMIN FOR ALL LCCC DIGITAL ASSETS, TO SET UP EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR ALL LCCC OFFICE-BEARERS, AFTER 8 JUNE 2017.**

5.4.3 Proposal to hold general election hustings for Edinburgh North and Leith (with Spurtle)

It was noted that the *Spurtle* has covered all levels of elections, including 2 recent hustings (Leith Walk ward for local elections; heritage hustings), both of which took place in the Broughton area. It was suggested that LCCC could work with the *Spurtle* to arrange a general election hustings in the Leith Walk area. It was noted that hustings should take place at least 3 weeks before the election, so week of 22 May was suggested. **ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO LOOK INTO COSTS OF HOLDING HUSTINGS AT OUT OF THE BLUE**

6 Planning

6.1 Proposed demolition of warehouse and erection of student accommodation at 254 Leith Walk

LCCC objection's objection to this has been submitted, following March minutes item 6.1

6.2 17/00538/ADV | Two Illuminated Fascia Signs. | Suite 1 16 Bothwell Street Edinburgh EH7 5PS

It was noted that this application has been refused by CEC.

6.3 Consultation on draft revised Edinburgh Design Guidance (closes 2 June)

H Tobermann suggested that this document is quite good, but that enforcement may be an issue. **ACTION: LCCC MEMBERS TO FEEDBACK IDEAS FOR COMMENTS AT OR BEFORE LCCC'S MAY MEETING**

6.4 LCCC submission on the future of the Scottish Planning System

This has been submitted. It is now also on LCCC's [website](#).

7 Transport

7.1 Leith Walk programme

7.1.1 Phase 4 (Iona to McDonald): works under way - recent site inspection (quality and snagging) - to finish Jun17

H Tobermann reported that this work is basically on target, that he has been involved in checking/snagging and saw that on the whole, workmanship is 'pretty good' (e.g. well-set/cambered slabs), better than previous sections. He hopes that some small improvements might be implemented, (e.g. consistently-coloured bollards).

L Moore noted that Iona St residents are fed up with their street being a builder's compound. HT suggested that while Iona St residents are suffering for the good of the whole area, there should be some form of compensation. (Other LCCC members concurred.) It was noted that the site has become messy, and that CEC should enforce improvement. HT noted that the original contract manager has resigned, and that the new CM may still be finding his way.

It was requested that all submissions should be put onto the website.

7.1.2 Phase 5 (McDonald to Montgomery): Jan18-Jul18 (if public hearing allows), impact of Leith Street closure
HT suggested that the schedule is slightly optimistic, but that the work in this phase should not be too 'tricky'. However, work cannot start until after the public hearing, which has not yet been timetabled, hence HT fears much slippage. He has contacted the hearing reporter, asking for this hearing to be prioritised, but has been told that expedition cannot be promised.

HT noted that closure of Leith Street (Sep17-Jul18) is likely to delay this work and cause much inconvenience. He has met with the contractor, to find out why the closure has become necessary. He suggested that it may not have been necessary to install drainage under Leith St, a principle reason for the closure, and is awaiting sight of CEC's traffic modelling for the closure.

7.1.3 Phase 6 (Montgomery to pedestrian crossing by Playhouse): early designs; on site Apr19-Jun21 (tram) or Jan19-Dec19 (no tram)

HT noted that early plans in are in discussion.

7.2 Parking

[I McLeod's paper](#) on parking options for some areas of LCCC notes that the parking working group intend to meet with Andrew Mackay, Traffic Orders and Project Development Officer, after the council elections, when the new councillors should be able to attend, to take forward conditions 2 and 3 (page 2 of paper).

H Tobermann noted that there appears to be a disproportionate amount of AirB&Bs in LCCC's area – this may correlates with free/unrestricted parking in this area.

It was noted that

- Edinburgh City Youth Hostel's website pointed guests to free parking on Pilrig St;
- parked cars had prevented fire engines' access to tenement at the end of Cambridge Avenue, thus threatening life;
- the RingGo parking app had recently [suffered a security breach](#), so users should take appropriate action
- parking meter stumps in the controlled parking zones are a danger to pedestrians. (It was suggested that many meters are being reconfigured to take the new £ coins.)

8 Environment

8.1 Environmental and structural impacts of Places for People Shrub Place/Dryden Street works

- It is proposed that demolition work takes place on Sundays to avoid endangering a nearby train line.
- It is also proposed that work hours will be extended from 7.30am – 6pm to 7:15am – 8.30pm.
- Piling is due to restart in June – nearby residents are concerned this will damaged their houses.
 - The project manager has confirmed there will be vibration monitoring. It was suggested that residents print photographs of the current state of their walls, and get the contractors to sign these as proof of the houses' current conditions. It was also suggested that tilt-meters (used in the St James works) should be used here, and that LCCC should monitor the situation, e.g. using a seismograph. **ACTION: B. RYAN TO ASK HIS UNIVERSITY IF THEY CAN PROVIDE ONE**
 - There were also concerns over bridge access and related issues, and lack of information reaching LCCC. **ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO INVITE CONTRACTORS TO LCCC'S JUNE MEETING.**

8.2 Absence of reply from developer regarding issues at interface between new development at Stanwell Street and Pilrig Park

H Tobermann noted that he has received no substantive reply, despite contacting the developer over a month ago. It was noted that CEC Parks officials are very keen on hearing from the developer.

8.3 Friends of Parks reports

8.3.1 Friends of Pilrig Park

It was noted that Sophie Brown, current chair of FoPP will be away for a year. A vote of thanks for her hard work for FoPP was minuted.

8.3.2 Friends of Montgomery Street Park

- FoMSP had held a [planting, litter-picking and bug-biome creation day](#) on Earth day (Sat 22nd). J Caldwell thanked the organisers of this event, and reported that FoMSP are looking for new office-bearers
- FoMSP are meeting on 15 May to plan for their September/summer fair.
- FoMSP's AGM is at 8pm on 7 June (venue TBC).

8.3.3 Contact with other Friends groups: Dalmeny Street and Hillside

No attendees had contacts with these bodies.

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

9.1 Cllr Donaldson

- She would like feedback on the new planters on Leith Walk.
 - It was asked who decided where they were placed, who is looking after them, and whether any more would appear. **ACTION: CLLR DONALDSON TO PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS.**
 - It was noted that Greener Leith will supply watering cans to local shopkeepers, and ask them to maintain the planters.
- She had attended the launch of the northeast Edinburgh community alcohol partnership, part of nationwide, multi-agency activity trying to tackle underage drinking and antisocial behaviour. She noted that the important educational point is about social identity, not units of alcohol.
- She would like to hear of any experiences of the DWP sanctioning people but not giving them feedback or signposting.
- She noted the gathering at Abbeyhill baptist church (<https://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2017/04/03/campaign-to-save-london-road-church>) for the Save London Road Church campaign. **ACTION: LCCC MEMBERS ATTENDING THIS GATHERING TO REPORT BACK TO LCCC IN MAY.**
 - H Tobermann suggested that Out Of The Blue may be able to temporarily host scout groups etc.
- She noted that the [Edinburgh North community manifesto](#) has fed into the Edinburgh Labour manifesto.

10 Open Forum/bulletin/AOCB

- It was requested that full agendas are circulated earlier than the day of LCCC meetings, to enable members to prepare for meetings.
- It was agreed *nem con* to join with Leith Links CC at a joint stall at Leith Gala (10 June) – cost £15.
- A vote of thanks was minuted for the current Leith Ward councillors for their attendance of and engagement with LCCC.
- It was noted that Leith Links wants to promote joint working between north Edinburgh CCs on planning and other mutual interests. **ACTION: SECRETARY TO CIRCULATE HIS REQUEST AND SURVEY LINK.**
- Who is ready to work with other CCs
- It was suggested that the AGM is advertised to LCCC's community, and agreed to advertise the presence of the St James developers, if this goes ahead.

11 Future Meetings (usually 3rd Monday of the month) and meeting topics/presentations

- 22 May 2017 (AGM).

11.1 Future presentations/discussions

- TBC 22 May 2017: THRE/CEC - impact of Leith Street closure on Leith Walk area - mitigating and compensatory measures
- date TBC: North East Locality Manager Natalie McKail (or maternity cover)