

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in Nelson Hall, McDonald Road library on Monday 20 May 2019 at 7:30pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS. NEM CON means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

1 Welcome

1.a LCCC members

Name	2019								2020			
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Clara Boeker	<input type="checkbox"/>	*										
Jack Caldwell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Jeremy Darot	*	*										
Alan Dudley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Charlotte Encombe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Pierre Forissier	<input type="checkbox"/>	*										
Nick Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
John Hein	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Sheila Kennedy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Ian Mowat	A	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Lorraine Moore	A	*										
Damian Sefton	*	*										
Julian Siann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Harald Tobermann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
John Wilkinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Bruce Ryan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan	<input type="checkbox"/>	A										
Cllr Rob Munn	<input type="checkbox"/>	*										
Cllr Susan Rae	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Cllr Lewis Ritchie	A	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Ben Macpherson MSP	A	A										
Alison Johnstone MSP	A	*										
Deidre Brock MP	A	A										

= not present, sent apology; A = not present, did not send apology

1.b Others

Alan Macintosh *Broughton Spurtle* | 4 residents | PC Kevin Weaver | Police Scotland

1.c Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda

None

1.d Order of business

DECISION: AT THIS MEETING, TO HEAR COUNCILLORS' REPORTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER POLICE. Discussion of precedent is in item 7 below.

2 Approval of minutes of 20 May 2019 meeting

- I Mowat noted that dates in the AGM financial report are incorrect. ACTION: IM TO CIRCULATE CORRECT VERSION VIA B RYAN.
- In the police report, 'MDA' = misuse of drugs

AGM & ordinary meeting minutes approved subject to making these changes (proposed A Dudley, seconded H Tobermann).

3 Matters arising from previous minutes (and not on agenda below)

- **Item 3** is in progress
- **Item 6.a.i:** Cllr Rae is waiting for replies. Concerning closure of Leith St, B RYAN TO SEND AN EMAIL HE HAS ALREADY DRAFTED TO LAING O'ROURKE OBJECTING 'POST-MORTEM' TO MISINFORMATION BY LAING O'ROURKE on this closure. H Tobermann stated that this closure was approved by Edinburgh's traffic management review panel, that this panel is somewhat opaque and has no CEC cllr members, and suggested that CEC cllrs should assert democratic accountability. Cllr Rae noted that the contract did not allow for recompense to CEC for the contractors' mistake that led to this closure.

4 Community Police Officer's Report

PC Weaver reported

- Concerning a cyclist being knocked off his bike in the lower stretches of Leith Walk, the driver has been charged. During the police proceedings, a child tried to steal the bike – and has been charged. H Tobermann suggested that the design of the cycle-path at the locus was partly to blame, and that relevant lessons should be taken in by the Trams project.
- Police are working on rough-sleeper issues, due to robberies at the bottom of Leith Walk.
- PC Weaver has given information about safety to Broughton Primary School.
- Police are working on antisocial behaviour issues on Leith Walk.
- Police are undertaking 'naval visits' and taking water-safety training.
- Police are engaging with Extinction Rebellion protests, and with speeding issues.

- [ACTION: B RYAN TO PUT SPEEDING LEAFLET ON LCCC WEBSITE.](#)
- Leith gala was a success, in that there was no [detected] criminality
- There was a stabbing in Spey Terrace yesterday.

N Gardner asked about phone boxes that have been left to become unsightly, and apparently only serve as a locus of ASB and drug-dealing. It was noted that BT has an obligation to keep a certain number of boxes in good order. [ACTION: N GARDNER TO FORWARD RELEVANT CONTACT DETAILS TO PC WEAVER, PC WEAVER TO CHASE THIS UP.](#)

Cllr Ritchie noted that 'Chris' is being tagged in graffiti across Leith. PC Weaver stated that this has not been reported, [BUT WILL FOLLOW THIS UP.](#)

5 Parks & Green Spaces

5.a [Re-opening of the Water of Leith Walkway \(press report\)](#)

H Tobermann noted that [the 'naked men' are back in the Water of Leith](#), after 2 years of campaigning to get the walkway reopened, and that a major obstacle has been that CEC does not own the land, and so has few rights over it. He suggested that a permanent public right is needed in relevant planning permissions. He thanked the *Spartle* for its [positive coverage of LCCC's work on this issue](#), and noted that such work demonstrates the value of community councils.

5.b **Friends of Pilrig Park report**

N Gardner reported that FoPP's annual picnic is on Saturday (12 noon to 2pm). They will draft a simple questionnaire about park improvements. This will include a question on catering vans. It was noted that LCCC has not yet decided its position on this topic. Discussion on this issue included

- Need for appropriate waste facilities – current bins are too few and too small (A Macintosh and others)
- Need to avoid setting unwelcome precedents (A Macintosh)
- Regulations forbid 'junk food' being sold within a certain distance of schools (A Macintosh)
- CEC's current failure to deal with refuse (S Kennedy)
- Allowing such vans on a trial basis only, with appropriate monitoring (I Mowat, A Macintosh)
- CEC has already permitted such catering vans, and has already advertised for franchisees (H Tobermann). He also suggested that the relevant consultation had been poor, because it omitted important questions.
- Should parks be commercialised, and their peace disturbed by such vans? (H Tobermann)
- Where do the proceeds from licensing of vans go, and how will they benefit the parks? (C Encombe)
 - S Kennedy responded that the money would go to CEC parks department, which has suffered budget cuts.
 - Cllr Ritchie suggested that catering vans have a duty of care, including clearing up waste they generate. If this duty was fulfilled, he suggested that such vans could be positive additions to parks and employment.

No position was decided: instead [LCCC'S LICENSING COMMITTEE WILL DEAL WITH EACH INSTANCE ON ITS \(DE\)MERITS AS APPROPRIATE.](#)

5.c **Friends of Montgomery St Park**

[ACTION: N GARDNER TO CIRCULATE, VIA B RYAN, THE DETAILS OF FOMSP'S ANNUAL SUMMER DAY](#) (probably 14 September).

6 Planning

6.a [Joint Community Councils' Written Submission](#) regarding 106 – 162 Leith Walk, Edinburgh Appeal reference PPA-230-2274 Appeal reference CAC-230-2004

CE noted that this document was very well written, thanked H Tobermann, N Gardner C Boeker J Siann, Leith Links CC and Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC for their contributions, and that this document is a great example of CC collaboration.

- J Siann noted that the developers included out-of-date drawings in their appeal against refusal of planning permission,
- H Tobermann noted that the submission has been supplied to Drum, CEC, Cockburn Association and Save Leith Walk.
- Cllr Rae stated that CEC councillors are grateful for this 'very helpful' document.

H Tobermann noted that the next step is the deadline for submission to the appeal (6 July). The SG reporter has been appointed, and now has to read all submissions, visit the site and decide whether to hold a hearing (relatively light process) or a public enquiry (this will need serious lawyers) needed. So the process will take at least until summer 2019. Then the reporter will decide for or against planning permission, based partly on the submissions but mostly on legal precedent.

H Tobermann also noted that Edinburgh University has withdrawn from the plans due to Drum's lack of community engagement, but that business that had been in the affected buildings continue to suffer gravely.

6.b **Local Plan 2030:**

6.b.i [Cockburn Association's 'soapbox session' on *Our Residential City* on 26 June at McDonald Road Library \(booking info\)](#)

H Tobermann noted that the Cockburn Association is 'gearing up' for the next version of Local Development Plans (LDPs).

6.b.ii [LCCC area proposals design event on 21 September 2019](#)

It was noted that Duncan Bremner of Leith Late is organizing this event about the Leith LDP. The venue is still TBC.

6.c **200 Bonnington Rd (adjacent to former John Lewis depot)**

6.c.i [CEC sale of the property to developer for £1.35m](#)

H Tobermann noted that this was previously used for health and social work, and latterly for by the CEC trams team. Outline planning permission for a housing development has already been obtained by John Lewis for this site.

6.c.ii [Window for community consultation under new *Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement*](#)

H Tobermann noted that because there is no full planning application for this site, a community buy-out could be organized, and that CCs cannot organize such buy-outs but other constituted groups can.

6.d **Report from recent Civic Forum**

It was noted that no LCCC representative attended this.

6.e 19/00415/PAN (rear of 139 Leith Walk): update

H Tobermann noted that LCCC agreed at the last meeting to suggest that the developers should 'pack it in', because they have failed to arrange a suitable PAN-presentation to LCCC. He also noted that they wish to make such presentations after the summer, and that he has asked CEC if this means the developer will need to make its application completely *de novo*.

6.f Other Planning matters relevant to LCCC area

J Slann noted that he has very recently updated LCCC's planning spreadsheet, which contains many long-standing applications. He suggested asking CEC when these will be resolved.

- [ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO CIRCULATE URL OF SPREADSHEET VIA B RYAN](#)

7 LCCC office-bearers' reports**7.a Community Council election****7.a.i [timeline for CC election 2019](#)**

- The timeline was noted. It is also on LCCC's website, in [this post](#).
- C Encombe noted that she has circulated relevant notices, but that actual application forms do not yet exist.
- J Caldwell displayed the flyers he has had printed, and asked for volunteers to distribute them. [ACTION: HE WILL PUT RELEVANT FILES ON DROPBOX, AND CIRCULATE A LINK, AND ORGANISE DISTRIBUTION.](#)

7.a.ii [Local Interest Group require to \(re-\)register with CEC \(\[Community.Councils@edinburgh.gov.uk\]\(mailto:Community.Councils@edinburgh.gov.uk\)\)](#)

[ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO INFORM N GARDNER ABOUT THIS, WITH REGARD TO FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY ST PARK AND FRIENDS OF PILRIG PARK.](#)

7.a.iii [Comms Group update on publicising CC election](#)

See item 7e below

7.b LCCC meetings August 2019 to June 2020**7.b.i [Update on availability of McDonald Rd Library \(Amy McNeese-Mechan\)](#)**

C Encombe noted that she wrote to Cllr Mcvey about this. He responded that he understood the issue, but left Cllr A McNeese-Mechan to take this forward. Cllr AMM has had no success so far. [ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO URGE CLLR AMM TO HURRY.](#)

7.b.ii [Proposed meeting dates August 2019 - June 2020](#)

- [DECISION: LCCC WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER.](#)
- [ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO NOTIFY CLLR AMM, AND KEEP LCCC MEMBERS INFORMED, INCLUDING A COPY OF THE FLYER ADVERTISING DATES.](#)
- [ACTION: J CALDWELL/B RYAN TO CIRCULATE DATES AS E-CALENDAR INVITATIONS, COMPLETE WITH APPROPRIATE REMINDERS.](#)
- [ACTION: S KENNEDY TO INFORM McDONALD RD LIBRARIAN OF DATES, INCLUDING A COPY OF THE FLYER ADVERTISING DATES.](#)
- [ACTION: C ENCOMBE TO INFORM LCCC OF MEETING TIME AND VENUE CHANGES, IF THESE OCCUR. \(BY END JULY\)](#)

7.c Treasurer's Report: annual accounts FY18/19, budget FY19/20, Changeover of signatories to bank account

I Mowat noted

- Not meeting in December would save LCCC £60 of minuting costs.
- LCCC would be in large deficit if it had to pay for meeting premises
 - J Wilkinson suggested that CCs can claim venue-costs from CEC, in addition to the annual CEC administration grant.

[ACTION: IM TO \(1\) CIRCULATE UP-TO-DATE VERSION OF ACCOUNTS; \(2\) CIRCULATE AND BUDGET \(INCLUDING PENDING INFORMATION OF COST OF SCREEN \[OR WHITE BEDSHEET\]; \(3\) LIAISE WITH L MOORE ABOUT APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS](#)

[DECISION: SIGNATORIES ARE TO BE TREASURER, CHAIR, VICECHAIR, SECRETARY. CHEQUES WILL BE SIGNED BY TWO OF THESE.](#)

7.d Report from partnership/locality meetings

J Caldwell noted

- He and B Ryan attended inaugural Network Neighbourhood (NN) meeting. They suggested that the NN is poorly thought-through and very poorly implemented. (See B Ryan's [report on LCCC website](#). [[ACTION: BR TO CIRCULATE THIS REPORT TO LCCC MEMBERS.](#)]) For example, Leith Walk ward is not as well represented as Leith Ward.
 - J Caldwell has submitted a list of potential NN member organisations, including many from LCCC's area.
 - He will also attend future quarterly NN meetings on behalf of LCCC.
- A letter about necessary improvements to NNs has been drafted by Leith CC members. Criticisms mentioned in this draft include insufficient representation of CCs, and lack of channels for CCs to raise issues and get things done.
 - [ACTION: JC TO REPORT FURTHER WHEN THIS LETTER IS FINALISED.](#)

7.e Comms Group Report

J Caldwell noted

- 1000 LCCC flyers have been printed. Some were distributed by JC and I Mowat at the recent volunteer fair & Leith Gala.
- He has resent the password for treasurer.lccc@leithcentralcc.co.uk so I Mowat can now use it.

7.f Reports from other office bearers

No items

8 Transport & Clean Streets**8.a Community Councils Together on Tram (CCTT): update**

H Tobermann reported

- CEC/TT is trying to engage with businesses along the route, while CCTT is trying to find out about changes to traffic.
- There will be a 2-year temporary traffic regulation order covering the area, enabling TT to handle emergent impacts.
- There has been no information published by Lothian Buses on changes, due to 'commercial confidentiality'.
 - HT noted that construction begins in October, so information is needed now. He suggested yet again that the project is being rushed and does not yet have proper preparation.

- There was discussion of bus-route closures on Leith Walk, and their effects on Bonnington Road and Easter Road.

8.b [Updated programme Carriageway Resurfacing Works - Summer 2019](#)

H Tobermann noted that this was mostly prompted by the need to fix side-streets along the tram-route before those works start. J Wilkinson noted that some work has been delayed already, and that there have been issues with traffic cones.

8.c **Any other Transport & Clean Street matters relevant to LCCC area**

S Kennedy reported about the strategic review of parking:

- CEC's transport and environment committee is meeting this Thursday.
- CEC has completed a review of 'area 3': this has taken into account points raised by LCCC's parking petition.
- LCCC's area is the most pressured in terms of parking, and so is top of a list of recommendations for controlled parking.
 - This list also takes into accounts pressures from the tram extension.
- H Tobermann noted that during tram-work, the TTRO will be used to manage parking. Hence he suggested that the final parking changes must be ready for the end the tram-work.
- **ACTION: S KENNEDY OR J CALDWELL TO SHARE LINK TO STRATEGIC PARKING REVIEW DOCUMENT, B RYAN TO ADD THIS TO WEBSITE.**

9 Licensing

No items

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

10.a Cllr Rae

She reported that Network Rail has started clearing a brae in Bonnington, so the wall at the top can be fixed. She also noted that the Greens and the Vegan Society stalls at Leith Gala were placed next to the meat-burger van, causing much 'fun'.

10.b Cllr Ritchie

He noted that tomorrow morning is the deadline for questions to various CEC officer-holders, so he is collating questions around small businesses. It appears to Cllr Ritchie the some CEC policies hamper small businesses, so he is trying to tackle this. Examples include large rates rises and need for better processes.

- I Mowat stated that the rates system needs improvement to support both businesses and residents, e.g. with regard to information processes. IM also noted an appalling traffic-jam at Bonnington Toll, due to broken red traffic lights. This is apparently not the first time this has occurred. J Caldwell and J Wilkinson corroborated such issues.

C Encombe raised the subject of short-term lets. Cllr Ritchie noted that a [relevant bill is going through the Scottish Parliament](#). A proposed amendment to give regulatory powers over short-term lets is allegedly being blocked, but the bill is at parliamentary stage 3. However, CEC is in favour of getting these powers.

- B Ryan noted that a [consultation](#) is in progress, closing on 19 July.
 - **ACTION: B RYAN TO SHARE LINK TO THIS CONSULTATION AND NOTES ON PLACE EDINBURGH FROM NTBCC JUNE MEETING WITH LCCC.**

11 Open Forum¹

A Macintosh offered to put LCCC's advertising flyer on the *Spurtle* website for free. **ACTION: J CALDWELL TO SEND IT ELECTRONICALLY.**

12 AOCB²

- I Mowat noted the City Centre Transformation Project consultation, closing at the end of June.
- H Tobermann noted the agenda protocol, and suggested that cllrs' reports should remain towards the end of agendas, not least because they are not usually substantive, but are unstructured, so may take up more time than appropriate. He suggested that if cllrs have issues to raise earlier, this could be agreed in the standing 'order of business' item,
 - B Ryan noted that moving cllrs' reports *in perpetuum* was not agreed, even though this may have been intended.
 - S Kennedy noted that any items towards the end of the agenda are likely to be rushed.
 - Action: Cllr Rae to report back to other councillors.
- J Caldwell noted that there is a focus group on a Leith-based creative network, at the Kirkgate (11am tomorrow).

13 Bulletin³

13.a Recent exhibition and research by Place-Age: [Place-making With Older Adults: Towards Age-friendly Communities](#)

This was noted.

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

14.a Dates 2019/20

See item 7.b.ii above.

14.b Potential future presentations

14.b.i [Briefing by Euan Leitch, BEFS on upcoming \[Tenement Maintenance\]\(#\) legislation and related matters](#)

ACTION: H TOBERMANN TO INVITE HIM TO PRESENT AT LCCC'S SEPTEMBER MEETING.

14.b.ii [Charrette: 19/00415/PAN \(rear of 139 Leith Walk\)](#)

¹ This agenda point allows members of the public to raise issues of public interest.

² This agenda point allows LCCC members to raise issues not covered by the agenda.

³ This is for information only; any discussion to be brought to a future meeting.