

# Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held via Zoom on Monday 15 June 2020 at 7:00pm

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

## 1 Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

Name	2020						2021						
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Jack Caldwell	Y	Y	no meeting										
Alan Dudley	Y	Y											
Charlotte Encombe	Y	Y											
Pierre Forissier	A	A											
Nick Gardner	Y	A											
Fee Gerlach													
John Hein	Y												
Sheila Kennedy	Y	Y											
Ian Mowat	Y	Y											
John Tibbitt	Y	Y											
Harald Tobermann	Y	Y											
John Wilkinson	Y	Y											
Amy Woodgate	Y	Y											
Bruce Ryan	Y	Y											
Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan	A												
Cllr Rob Munn	Y	A											
Cllr Susan Rae	A	Y											
Cllr Lewis Ritchie													
Ben Macpherson MSP													
Deidre Brock MP													

Y = present; y = sent representative, A = not present, sent apology; \* = not present, did not send apology

## 2 Minutes of previous meetings

### 2.a Minutes of April meeting

- These were not approved at the May meeting because they had not been properly circulated.
- They were now approved as-is (proposed A Woodgate, seconded C Encombe, *nem con*)

### 2.b Minutes of May meeting

These were approved as-is (proposed J Tibbitt, seconded J Wilkinson, *nem con*)

## 3 Interim arrangements of the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)

It was noted that CEC has decided that, until further notice, it will not *erect street notices for any Traffic Regulation Order or physically display any documents at Council buildings*. The relevant documentation is at [Edinburgh Council Interim Notification \(PDF\)](#) and [gov.scot update \(website\)](#).

There was discussion of CEC's request for CCs to place 'a generic notice' on their online presences 'highlighting that proposals will be taken through a different legal process, and encouraging people to register to receive updates'.

- Cllr Rae stated that CEC currently needs to act more quickly than normal, so is requesting help to share information under difficult circumstances.
- ***ACTIONS: B RYAN TO CIRCULATE HOW HE HAS implemented this on LHNC's website; LCCC TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO DO THE SAME.***
- ***ACTIONS: S KENNEDY TO TRIAGE SPECIFIC TTROS FOR RELEVANCE TO LCCC'S AREA; LCCC COMMS GROUP TO RELEVANT TTROS***

## 4 Dryden St/Terrace pedestrian access - lack of progress

See photos in Appendix: information. H Tobermann noted that

- These barriers were erected by Places for People ('PfP', developers of the site between Dryden St and Leith Walk) about 4 years ago, hence blocking pedestrian access via the bridge. There are often puddles and gatherings of litter, and the path is much less than 2 metres wide, yet this route is much used. PfP has 'grabbed' much of the width of the bridge. Despite repeated requests, PfP has not improved matters.
- Spaces for People (SfP), which is rolling out temporary traffic-calming and pavement-widening measures has also been asked to improve this route as a quiet cycle-route, so that people do not need to cycle on Leith Walk – especially during tram-works. SfP too has not responded to such requests.
- All of this has resulted in a 'ridiculous' situation.

Cllr Rae stated that she has not been contacted about this, despite HT doing so very soon after the SfP scheme opened and start of implementation of other proposals. Cllr Rae noted that she has asked CEC officials why nothing is yet happening about cycle-route implementation.

- ***ACTION: CLLR RAE TO CHASE WHY THIS MATTER IS NOT BEING ACTED ON***

## 5 Creating Safe Spaces for Walking and Cycling (SFP scheme)

### 5.a Covid-19 Cycling and Walking Emergency Response Measures

The following sources of information about TTROs were noted:

- [Spaces for People \(SFP\) \(LCCC post\)](#)
- [Spurtle article 'CRISIS DECISION MAKING, CIVIC TENSIONS' \(website\)](#)

### 5.b Creating Safe Spaces for Walking and Cycling

It was noted that in response to Covid-19, CEC is introducing temporary emergency measures to make streets safe for walking and cycling while observing physical distancing guidance. See [CC Briefing note \(PDF\)](#), [FAQ Spaces for people \(PDF\)](#).

- I Mowat asked whether LCCC could do more about these proposals, expressing concern that the proposals for North Bridge and the Mound will require large diversions by people travelling from LCCC's area. He strongly questioned whether CEC is doing what people need, and why the current proposals are similar to 'what CEC would do anyway'.
- Cllr Rae responded that, due to coronavirus, CEC needs to make major changes to enable people to move safely (e.g. making space for people to walk and cycle), and that major changes are needed anyway due to other reasons. It is openly Green policy to encourage modal shifts in transport, not a hidden plot.
- I Mowat stated that the current process is 'completely inappropriate for a major change', and that it is appropriate to raise this in LCCC's meeting because it affects LCCC's area.
  - Cllr Rae appeared to hear this as 'politically inappropriate', and stated that it matters to her that people in her area can move about. (I Mowat stated that he shares this concern.)
  - There was brief, heated discussion between IM and Cllr Rae over how cars would travel to other parts of Edinburgh.
  - H Tobermann added that while it may be Green long-term plan to implement major changes, it is unlikely to be Green policy to cause additional car-congestion and pollution. This would result from cars needing to use other routes (e.g. Easter Rd and London Rd – both in LCCC's area) if/while North Bridge and the Mound are closed.
  - There was argument over the use of the word 'ridiculous' in this exchange.
- S Kennedy expressed concern about the increase in parking that would occur on London Road, Easter Road and Abbeyhill. She noted that she would not currently like to use public transport, so would drive east-west in Edinburgh. Hence she is concerned that there may be unforeseen consequences. For example, if more space is needed for pedestrians on Easter Road, then she cannot see how the extra traffic would be accommodated.
- B Ryan noted that while NTBCC did not contest the aims of the various proposals affecting its area – including the North Bridge proposals, it had strong concern about the detail and potential knock-on effects of the proposals.
- **ACTION: B RYAN TO CIRCULATE RELEVANT PARTS OF NTBCC'S DRAFT MINUTES, IF ALLOWED BY NTBCC.**
- **ACTION: CLLR RAE TO TAKE LCCC'S CONCERNS TO RELEVANT CEC OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS.**

### 5.c Commonspace interactive map - [Commonspace map \(website\)](#)

It was noted that this map allows users to identify roads where physical distancing is difficult and to suggest how this might be resolved. However, it does not allow contributors to disagree with suggestions, only confirm/agree.

- H Tobermann noted that it went live about 12 days ago. LCCC's submission was via email because of the above-noted limitation. He noted that CEC has received many submissions via the map.
- S Kennedy reiterated this limitation, also reported at a recent Cockburn Association meeting. Hence to register disagreement with any proposal, people need to add separate proposals. Instead, there should be sliding or Lickert scales via which people can respond to others' proposals. This would also enable CEC officials to more easily assess levels of (dis)agreement with proposals.
  - C Encombe read out some examples of people criticising the map for such reasons.
- H Tobermann noted that LCCC's emailed submission covered some of these issues. He was concerned that this was not an adequate way of gathering public opinion. He suggested that this concern could be reiterated to CEC
- I Mowat suggested gathering proposals and sending a new submission to CEC. He noted the narrow pavement at the corner of Bonnington Terrace and Ferry Road, and that there are already several suggestions on the map about this. This corner is effectively blind, so that it would be easy to come within 2 metres of people walking around the corner.
- A Dudley noted that maps are of little use to people with visual impairments. He finds it difficult to follow proposals around road-layouts etc because of his visual impairment, but finds it helpful to hear discussions by others.
  - B Ryan asked whether this map breaks W3C standards or even disability legislation, while admitting that he has created online maps that do not cater for people with visual impairments.
  - C Encombe noted that RNIB is regularly consulted on such issues. A Dudley will contact them.
- J Caldwell noted tht Leith Walk is one of Edinburgh's 8 recognised town centres, but is the only one of these that has no physical distancing etc proposals. He suggested that the empty work-spaces could be used for this.
- **ACTION: I MOWAT TO DRAFT LCCC'S REPLY, AMEND IT BASED ON MEMBERS' RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT, THEN SUBMIT IT**

## 6 Tree watering

J Caldwell noted that a resident had observed that trees need much water, and had been concerned during the recent dry spell. There is an app for creating tree-watering groups, but <http://edinburghtreemap.org> is out of date. Hence he hopes to make updates. He suggested that tree-watering (when needed) would be a good step for LCCC, gathering positive publicity.

- S Kennedy asked about the planters that were along Leith Walk but are now in the Leith Links area.
- **ACTION: J CALDWELL AND S RAE TO CONTACT LEITH LINKS CC ABOUT THIS MATTER**

## 7 Covid19 impacts - Scottish infection and death rates ([website + visualisations](#))

H Tobermann noted that this data is from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). He drew attention to the much larger death-rate for older people (See chart in Appendix: information.) He suggested that emphasis should be on protecting older people, noting that the chart shows around 270 people in Scotland aged 45 to 64 have died of coronavirus while the number for people aged 85 or older is around 1700. This is despite the population of older people being less than that of younger people.

## 8 LCCC operations

### 8.a Accounts - for information 2019-2020 now available ([PDF](#))

I Mowat expressed surprise about a proposal for an AGM in July. There was discussion of whether LCCC should meet in July and/or August.

### 8.b IT upgrade

A Woodgate and J Caldwell noted that LCCC could benefit from audit and maintenance of its email lists, digital assets held for agenda items etc. (Many of these are on H Tobermann's personal webspace.) This audit should consider access for people with visual impairments. Also LCCC's current IT arrangements do not support @leithcentralcc.co.uk email addresses for the engagement officer.

- *ACTION: J CALDWELL TO MAKE EMAILS TO LCCC'S TREASURER EMAIL ADDRESS FORWARD I MOWAT'S PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.*
- *ACTION: LCCC COMMS TEAM TO WORK ON THIS FOR NEXT MEETING, INCLUDING ASCERTAINING POTENTIAL COSTS.*

### 8.c Office Bearer updates

- S Kennedy noted that that she frequently receives PAN information about the new Filmhouse.
  - *ACTION: SK TO IGNORE THESE.*
- H Tobermann noted that he had been contacted by Drum Properties. Drum hopes that LCCC will take part an online consultation about Drum's new proposals for Stead's Place. HT noted that he had told Drum that LCCC would only take part if this was a precursor to 'proper', in-person consultations with an exhibition. He will reiterate this to Drum.
- C Encombe noted that she is aware of general unhappiness with how CEC is currently taking decisions with little consultation with CCs.
  - H Tobermann noted that Edinburgh World Heritage is holding a relevant event: <https://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2020/06/12/an-invitation-from-edinburgh-world-heritage>.
  - *ACTION: A WOODGATE TO CIRCULATE THIS LINK TO MEMBERS.*

## 9 Date of next meeting

20 July 2020. This will be a members-only/business meeting.

- *ACTION: A WOODGATE TO CIRCULATE AN INVITATION TO THIS MEETING TO MEMBERS, WITH A LINK TO AN EDITABLE AGENDA DOCUMENT.*
- *ACTION: LCCC MEMBERS TO ADD THEIR REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS TO THIS DOCUMENT.*

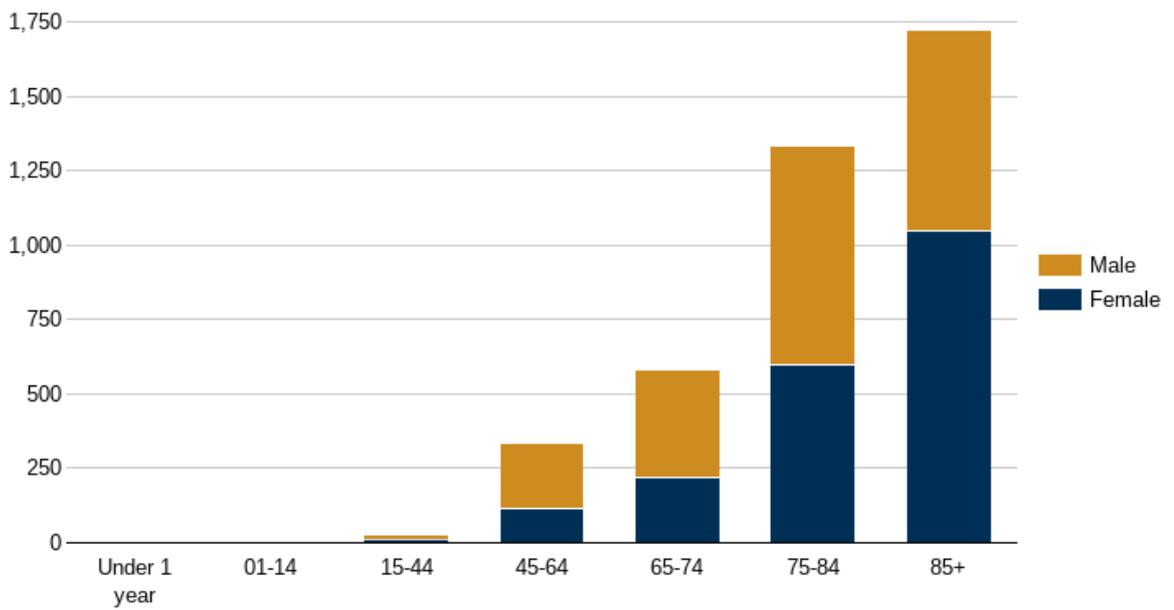
It was suggested that the AGM is advertised as happening at LCCC's regular August meeting date, coronavirus permitting.

## Appendix: information

- Interactive map for planning proposals - [Weekly lists - applications and decisions \(website\)](#)
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation - [Interactive map allowing zoom into areas \(website\)](#)
- Covid19 daily data update for Scotland - [2,807 for Lothians \(website\)](#)
- Dryden St/Ter pedestrian access images (see page 4)



Number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) registered deaths by age and sex



Source: <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/06/15/coronavirus-covid-19-in-scotland/>