

## **MINUTES - Meeting of LCCC Planning Sub-Committee**

**Monday 6th June 2011 at 4.10pm in McDonald Road Library Nelson Hall**

**Present:** Annette O'Carroll (Minutes), Julian Siann, Charlotte Encombe, Martin Patrick, Sarah Woodford (part)

**Apologies:** Ann Stark, Harald Tobermann, Roland Reid

### **1. Update on Current Applications:**

1.1 Brunswick Rd (10/00544) The site developer is Montague Evans for the Royal Mail Group. The PAN consultation (24/3/2010) was cancelled in March 2010, and a later application for a temporary car park (10/02407/FUL) - for 3 months 6th August 2010- 5th November 2010 - has subsequently been withdrawn. They are now keen to arrange to meet with us in order to update us on plans for the future development of the site, together with interim plans for the next 3 years or so, until such times as the housing market picks up again in Edinburgh. The meeting will be on Tuesday 7th June.

### **2. Update on Consultations:** There were no consultations

### **3. Leith Walk Action Plan**

3.1 Annette reported on the meeting of the **Leith Business Association** she had attended on 1st June 2011

3.1.1 Ian Buchanan had said that CEC was developing an **Environmental Plan** for Leith Walk - what could reasonably be done and what should be the priorities? A Design Brief is being developed, on which there will be consultations. £2m will be available for public realm works; - however there are also reinstatement issues with tie. There will be a 10 year 'Vision' for the area, so that work that is done does not have to be ripped up again. Funding could be from the Neighbourhood Partnership and the Roads Capital fund.

3.2.2 The **trade waste bins** were causing trouble. It was suggested that the Barrow Beat people should have the task of reporting any problems with these to CEC. Ian Buchanan mentioned a plan "Modernising Waste Services" that would go to committee on 25th August. This would also look at re-siting domestic bins and the possibility of halving the number of bins and doubling the number of collections. There was a need continually to monitor and reassess the situation.

3.2.3 A Leith flag was now available and its display on local shops would require mass planning applications.

3.2.4 Annette agreed to forward Street Art info to Alan Rudland.

3.2 **Sarah Woodford** (the new Town Centre Co-ordinator for Leith Walk, Leith Central and Portobello) attended and gave us an update on Leith Walk area initiatives:

3.2i Overall was the the need to formulate an **Action Plan** - this would build upon work already done by Graham Russell and would include new items and opportunities that are not in any current plan. However although willing to consider, such possibilities, there may not be the necessary budget to fund them.

3.2ii Sarah was currently working with several groups. These included **(1) The Leith Development Group** which was an internal (CEC) body, including Ian Buchanan and the Leith

Business Gateway. This has a steering group and reports to the Chamber of Commerce  
(2) **The Leith Business Association** (see above) and (3) **Leith Past Present and Future**. This is a working group to take forward various activities, including making Leith more accessible for tourists and showing what it has to offer.

There was no money for new navigator signs, so the existing signs would be cleaned and painted and new art work introduced. Where the historical banners were concerned the cost of replacement for each would be £350. It could be good if some new functional banners could be introduced, for example one which could point to the existence of Trinity House. Other possibilities might involve local schools. There was someone within CEC who could help with design.

Overall the key factor was to identify where the best opportunities were and it was crucial to have a benchmark for measuring progress. Communication was important and Facebook, Twitter and the 'I Love Leith' website could be used for this. The newsletter 'Spotlight' had been relatively well received; a PR agency had been contracted to produce this but lack of CEC funding meant that it now had to come in-house

3. 2iii **Shopfront Schemes** - The pilot loan scheme to restore original features to shop fronts on Elm Row and (possibly) the surrounding area. Applications had to go before a selection panel. A further initiative involved sprucing up the Town Centres, for example with 50% match funding for repainting: this might be available for areas within Leith.

## **5. Any Other Business**

Charlotte mentioned Greener Leith 'Energy Share', an exploration of the feasibility of a **wind turbine** on land at Seafeld Waste Water Treatment Works, Marine Esplanade, Edinburgh. The aim of the project is to generate enough renewable energy to power the equivalent of 300-1300 homes each year. It would be useful if as many people as possible could show support for this.

## **6. Dates of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed - possibly Monday 25th July