

**Draft Minutes for Leith Central Community Council Meeting held on 12th  
December, 2011 at MacDonald Road Library, 7.30-9.00pm**

**Attendance**

John Hein	Acting Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Communication and minutes LCCC,
Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents' Association
Cllr Deidre Brock	City Councilor Leith Walk (SNP)
Cllr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Lab)
Jim Scanlon	Chair of Leith Links CC
Ann Stark	Friends of Hillside Crescent Association
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC and Greener Leith
Julian Siann	LCCC
Juan Gardia Navarro	LCCC
Peter Mellors	Resident
Julie Smith	Splashback Campaign
Simon Shields	Splashback Campaign
Phil Attridge	Pilmeny Development Project, Observer.
Seamus Skinner	SNP candidate
Nick Gardner	Labour candidate

**1.0 Introductions and Announcements.**

Welcome to the meeting to Julie Smith and Simon Shields of Splashback a group campaigning against the closure of Leith Water World.

**2.0 Apologies for absence**

Annette O'Carroll	Convenor Planning sub-committee LCCC
Stan Eadie	Convenor Transport sub-committee LCCC
Mark Lazarowicz	MSP North Edinburgh (Lab)
Amy Hutton	Resident and Cyrenians
Dominic Moran	LCCC
Martin Patrick	LCCC
Geraldine Debard	Friends of Montgomery Street Park.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 21st November 2011.**

Approved by Juan Garcia Navarro  
Seconded by Charlotte Encombe

**4. Community Police Officer's Report..**

No report, no police officer in attendance.

**5. Closure of Leith Water World.**

Presentation by Splashback – Campaign to Save Leith Water World.

Simon Shields told the meeting that he was seeking LCCC's support for the case that the decision taken in 2005 to close the pool needs to be revised. Splashback wants the pool to stay open. He said that this is an excellent facility in Leith that serves a

diverse, vibrant and active community in the area. It is particularly attractive for children and families. The decision to close is a wrong decision for the city and the community. No other local pool has the facilities that Water World offers. The campaign has attracted more than 5,000 signatures of support.

Convenor for Culture and Leisure Cllr Deidre Brock said that the costs of keeping the pool open run at almost £350,000 per year. She said that there have been around 15 separate reports done since 2005 and the matter has been discussed at length. The Royal Commonwealth Pool (RCP) was found to be the most used of all the facilities in the city. The sale of Water World and its operational savings would contribute over £5.5m towards the £37m refurbishment costs to RCP. The pool will open in early Spring 2012. It was also decided that Victoria pool should be the first priority for the Leith area. It is possible that both the Victoria Pool and the pool at Leith Academy could be approached to provide one day a week when the water could be a warmer temperature for family use. This is a very late stage in negotiations and Leith Water World staff have been redeployed. The site for Leith Water World is open for offers of interest.

Splashback said that the £340,000 annual costs amounted to only one per cent of the spend for Edinburgh Leisure. It also noted that both Victoria Pool and Leith Academy facilities were entirely different and did not provide the same unique facilities of Water World. Splashback said that more information needs to be made available about staffing numbers and costs.

The Chair put two motions to the committee:

1. That Leith Water World should be kept open until the opening of the RCP. Carried.
2. That the decision to close Leith Water World should be revised. Motion defeated.

The secretary agreed to write to CEC supporting the Splashback request that Leith Water World be kept open until the opening of the RCP.

## **6.0 Matters Arising**

### **6.1 Seafield Community Wind Turbine Funding Bid**

Charlotte Encombe for Greener Leith reported that the funding bid for £80,000 for the proposed Seafield Wind Turbine was successful, attracting more than 4,000 signatures of support. The joint application was submitted by Pedal Power and Greener Leith. The project could generate a surplus of £25,000 for 25 years for community projects. Cllr Brock noted that there are various models, including Development Trusts, which can be considered when seeking to disperse community funds. Charlotte said that a great deal of work now needs to be done in working towards making the wind turbine a reality.

The CC asked the secretary to write to Scottish Water expressing noting Cc support for the project.

### **6.2 Gaelic Medium Education Bonnington PS**

The decision to open the Gaelic School in Bonnington Primary School has been approved and the school will open in August 2013.

### **6.3 Web Site Development**

LeithcentralCC site/blog is now functioning and up to date. Jenny has posted recent minutes, Psc meeting reports, dates of meetings for 2012 and several stories about recent new and events. Jenny resumes her role as communications officer with LCCC. It was suggested that notices be placed in McDonald Road library announcing the website details.

**6.4 107A Ferry Road.** Cllr Blacklock reported that there had been no further reports of noise disturbance. Cllr Brock is to meet with a Cyrenians' representative in one week's time.

## **7. Open Forum**

Hoardings at the front of the Shrub Place empty building site blew down in the recent gales. Cllr Brock noted that City and Leith NP manager Mike Penny is involved in ongoing discussions with the developer about how to improve the appearance of the site. Members noted that there are already too many derelict (gap) sites in the Leith area.

## **8. Future of the Transport sub-committee**

In Stan Eadie's absence, discussion was postponed until the January meeting.

## **9. Officer and Councillor Reports**

### **No Secretary's Report**

**Treasurer's Report.** The account reflects a balance of just over £1840. It was agreed by members that, in the event of no further progress being made with the project planned by the previous Chair Stewart Blaik, the remaining approximate £600 of the Leith Decides money should be returned.

### **Planning**

Roland Reid gave a summary of the last Psc meeting (December 5<sup>th</sup>) in convenor Annette O'Carroll's absence. Notes of the meeting to be posted on the website under Minutes and Reports.

Under Update on Current Applications 1.7. 222 Easter Road. LCCC had supported the Psc objection to a proposed conversion of a redundant shop into two very small flats. This application has been refused. Members supported recording an objection raised to the 'unacceptably threatening language' that had been used by the developer in response to the LCCC objection.

In response to a query by Nick Gardner about LCCC's response to the application for Prior Demolition at 2-8, 3-11, 15, 17 & 19 West Bowling Green Street and 26 Anderson Place, Harald Tobermann confirmed the Psc's concern that buildings should not be demolished until planning approval had been granted in order to avoid adding to the many gap sites already existing in Leith.

Charlotte Encombe described the uncertainty surrounding the development of the Forth Ports land at Ocean Terminal and surrounding dockside areas and raised objection to the public being kept in the dark about the future of the area. Many local people who had invested a lot of time in attending consultations events over many months now have no idea about plans for the area. Cllr Brock committed to requesting more details from Forth Ports.

## **9. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
2012 meeting dates are as follows:

January 16<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> (AGM), June 18<sup>th</sup>,  
August 20<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>.