

Minutes of the meeting of Leith Central Community Council held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 25 February 2013 at 7.00-9.00pm

Attendance

Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Anne Finlay	LCCC
Anne Munro	LCCC
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC and Greener Leith
Alex Wilson	LCCC and Leith Business Association
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC
Stephen Penman	Resident
Liz Ballentyne	Resident
Sophie Brown	Resident
Sarah Marsh	Resident
Peter Mellors	Resident
Liz Ballentyne	Resident
Ken O'Neill	Resident
Naomi Cunningham	Holder Planning
Robin Holder	Holder Planning
Alison Bancroft	Redport
Dennis Jones	Ocean Terminal
Paul Hutton	CEC Community Safety
Graeme Gill	CEC Park Ranger
Ella Taylor-Smith	Broughton Spurtle
Cllr Deidre Brock	Leith Walk Ward (SNP)
Lauren Ritche	Student Journalist
PC Andy Higgins	Lothian & Borders Police
Fiona Devlin	CEC Parks CCL

1.0 Introductions and Announcements

Roland Reid, Secretary, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Apologies for absence

John Hein	Acting Chair LCCC
Julian Siann	LCCC
Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Cllr Blacklock	Leith Walk Ward (Labour)
Mark Lazarowicz MP	Lab. North Edinburgh
Malcolm Chisholm	MSP (Labour)
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Ken O'Neil	Resident
Jim Scanlon	Chair, Leith Links Community Council
Keith Hales	Leith Business Association

3.0 Approval of Minutes of 21 January 2013

Correction noted for items 6.2/6.3. Reference to the broken padlock relates to the Shrubhill House site, not the adjacent site. Subject to this correction, proposed by Charlotte Encombe, seconded by Anne Munro.

4.0 Ocean Terminal

Robin Holder of Holder Associates presented an update. Resolution are now the owners of Ocean Terminal having bought it from Forth Ports one year ago. Mr Holder is a planning consultant acting for the new owners. His colleague Alison Bancroft of Redport has been appointed by Resolution to engage with nearby communities in order that OT can be more responsive to local needs. Her role is also to raise awareness of OT's commitment to supporting cultural and community events, such as Leith Festival as well offering employment opportunities. The purpose in attending the community council meetings was in order to develop connections and a dialogue. Denis Jones has been the Manager of OT since its opening 10 years ago. He has seen it develop from 18 to 70 stores and his Team continue to focus on maximising the building's potential with a current planning application to expand restaurant provision. Resolution recognised that the centre is operating under difficult trading conditions with several of the tenants now in administration. There were also external challenges to be faced. Of primary concern is the competition of Fort Kinnaird which is better located geographically and is currently looking to develop a multiplex cinema and offer space to Debenhams for a department store.

A representative from Fort Kinnaird wished to stress that their proposals did not present a risk to OT. Debenhams have written to the City Council with an undertaking that they remain committed to OT and that the proposed development at Fort Kinnaird would form part of a three store strategy for the South East of Scotland. Fort Kinnaird previously had a cinema complex and what was proposed is small in comparison.

Feedback Forms were distributed and members were invited to return these to Ocean Terminal.

Annette O'Carroll noted that both OT and Fort Kinnaird lie outwith the boundaries of LCCC and it was not normal practice for the Planning Sub-Committee to comment on specific applications that do not directly affect our area. Alex Wilson stated that the LBA were looking to see an improvement in the immediate environment of OT with a view to increasing footfall. Saw a need for an attraction such as the Big Wheel.

5.0 Pilrig Park

5.1 Sophie Brown is a local resident and is keen to re-establish a Pilrig Park Friends Group. Her plans are at an early stage but she would hope to work with individuals and businesses with a view to creating a committee. The friends group can be contacted at: friendsofpilrigpark@gmail.com.

Fiona Devlin of Parks intimated that her manager Dave Sinclair has been relocated. James Hunter is to replace him and will be in post next month. As a consequence the completion of the park improvement plan has been delayed. The focus remains: improved access, benches, tree condition, bins, ground maintenance, safety and security. She noted that the shrubbery is overgrown and dense and could encourage rough sleeping. However, it was stated that no needles were found during the community clean-up of 26 January. Paul Hutton of CEC Community Safety spoke of his involvement and that of the police in the Neighbourhood Partnership "Cleaner Leith" Forum. He invited CC members to attend future forum meetings.

The Secretary referred to the Leith Walk link footpath between the proposed Gaelic Medium School and Stead's Place. This is poorly maintained and has no street lighting and is likely to be used more once the school opens in August. Anne MacPhail has now been appointed Head Teacher of the new school. Ms Devlin advised that the mud and standing water in the

pitch was not due to a leaking sewer but as a result of the high water table. Annette O'Carroll also made reference to the Park in the context of the proposed Pilrig Conservation Area.

6.0 Community Police Officer's Report

PC Andy Higgins presented the report. Normal police activities had now resumed following the investigation of a death of a Nepalese man.

The police have been working with community volunteers on the "Shipshape Leith" project to remove graffiti. PC Mark Robinson deals with graffiti and can be contacted on 529 3030. There are plans for the mural at Gordon Street by contemporary artists to celebrate old and new Leith. A street party is planned for June. The condition of the mural on the gable at North Junction Street was commented upon and it was queried if it could be renovated.

Also working with local businesses, the LBA, Leith Late and Vicky MacDonald to investigate a possible Street Market to be located on Leith Walk. Looking for financial support.

A children's art competition is being proposed with a focus on the empty shops. Landlords are being contacted with a view to display competition entries in their shop windows.

Further "Days of Action" planned by PC Simon Daley regarding cycling on pavements.

The Drug and Alcohol Forum discussed the on-going problems that staff have with some library users. Likewise, the Kirkgate continues to be a focus for policing.

There were 12 House Break-in and 2 Business Break-ins. Solve rates are 42% and 44% respectively and these compare well with national rates.

7.0 Matters Arising

7.1 Leith Walk Repairs Consultation

Alex Wilson referred to the consultation submission by Leith Business Association. He acknowledged that the Neighbourhood Partnership were taking on their comments but he still felt that there was a lack of vision in their approach. Cllr Brock referred to the press release regarding an application for Sustrans funding for the upgrade of the top of Leith Walk. A report will go to the Transport and Environment Committee on the 19 March. Papers available from 12-13 March.

7.2 Leith Decides. Event takes place on Saturday 4 March at the Drill Hall. Deadline for voting at the Library is tomorrow.

7.3 Bridge over Powder Hall Line/Shrubhill Site An application is being submitted for use of the site for storage but not for stone processing activities.

7.4 Shrubhill House Site. Anne Munro confirmed that she and Julian Siann had made a submission to the Forestry Commission for the temporary use of the area fronting the former offices. A response is due by no earlier than March.

7.3 26 Pilrig Street. Charlotte Encombe reported positive progress. She had spoken at the HMO Licensing Committee and had met the City Council Solicitor. The property had now been renovated; the statutory notice works now having been completed. Enforcement Officer Nicky Brown has confirmed that he can speak at our March meeting.

7.4 Splashback The Council have agreed to support Splashback to develop their business plan. Funding from CEC of up to £125 to made available to the group in order to achieve this.

7.5 Trams. Cllr Brock advised that trams to be considered by Transport and Environment Committee for inclusion in the National Concessionary Fares Scheme.

8.0 Open Forum

Neighbourhood Partnership Housing and Built Environment Projects Fund. Charlotte

Encombe wished to alert the CC to possible funding for environmental projects. She had recently attended a meeting of the Built Environment Committee. Alex Wilson referred to the cruise liners that will visit the port over the summer. He saw a need to make their entry to the city more attractive. Considering the production of a welcome brochure.

9.0 Officer's Reports

9.1 **Secretary.** Workshop facilitated by Planning Aid on Offshore Renewable Energy. 10 April, 6-8.30pm.

9.1 **Treasurer.** Current balance is £1221.80. Last expenditure was £200.00 on the Leith Festival Xmas event.

9.2 **Planning Sub-Committee.** Unite Application. An objection to the Section 42 variation which seeks to extend the period of the existing consent has been made.

9.3 **Cllr Brock.** Welcomed the establishment of the Pilrig Friends group and was keen to facilitate the meeting of the local Friends groups to share best practice. Reported the Council budget for the next financial year had now been agreed.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 Monday 25 March 2013