

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 17 March 2014 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are ***RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS***. ***NEM CON*** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision. URLs added by minutes secretary.

1 Introduction, attendance and apologies

1.1 Attendance

Marion Donaldson	LCCC	Bruce Ryan	minutes secretary
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC (secretary)	Liz Ballantyne	resident
Anne Finlay	LCCC (treasurer)	Adrian Graham	resident
John Hein	LCCC (chair)	Peter Mellors	resident
Ross McEwan	LCCC	Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Julian Siann	LCCC	Leah Lockhart	Greener Leith
Irene Sweeney	LCCC	Marion Williams	Cockburn Association
Harald Tobermann	LCCC (vice-chair)	Ella Taylor-Smith	Broughton Spurtle
Alex Wilson	LCCCC	Sgt Caroline Flynn	Police Scotland

1.2 Apologies

Keith Hailes	Leith Business Association	Cllr Dierdrie Brock	Leith Walk ward (SNP)
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2 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 17th February 2014

Approved ***SUBJECT TO MINUTES SECRETARY ENSURING THAT URLS IN ITEM 3.5 WORK*** (proposed A Wilson, seconded R McEwan)

3 Matters arising from previous month's minutes

3.1 Actions from previous month's minutes

3.1.1 Communication (item 3.1 in February minutes) – Chair/Marion Donaldson

LCCC's new cellphone number is 07899 190028. It is now on the web: <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/contact-us-2/>

3.1.2 Leith partnerships (item 3.4 in February minutes) – secretary

Secretary has invited Anna Herriman (Partnership and Information Manager, City Centre and Leith at City of Edinburgh Council) to speak to LCCC.

3.1.3 Model standing orders (item 5.1 in February minutes) – minutes secretary

These standing orders have now been circulated. They are also online at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/11847/model_standing_orders_2013

ACTION: ALL LCCC MEMBERS TO READ IN PREPARATION FOR CONSIDERING ADOPTING THESE AT APRIL MEETING

3.2 Edinburgh planning concordat

It was suggested that LCCC was already indirectly signed up to this concordat via membership of Edinburgh Association of CCs. Formally signing up would open the door to money to support consultations on contentious planning issues. It appears that up to £300 per planning consultation is available, provided the developer has previously refused to finance such consultation. (See http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/2434/edinburgh_planning_concordat and item 7 here: http://lhnc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/2014_03_05.pdf.)

3.3 Changes to local development plan (LDP)

C Encombe reported that an LDP was agreed last year but soon afterwards, the Scottish Government (SG) decided that there should be more new homes built in Edinburgh than were in this LDP. Hence the LDP is being revised and is likely to include more houses in the Leith docks area. Previous plans have zoned this area for industry and recycling. LCCC's opinion so far has been that brownfield sites should be used up first to minimise encroachment on the green belt. However, there are not enough brownfield sites for the number of new houses SG requires in Edinburgh. If Edinburgh Council does not allocate enough space for new houses, developers can take them to court and then build on greenbelt. CE suggested that without intervention, the entire docks area would be full of houses. CE recommended that all members read the documents <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2014/03/09/local-development-plan/>

J Siann asked whether land-banking (holding land in reserve against future development needs) had been considered. JS also asked who would develop up to 24,000 houses.

CE noted that the proposed green bridge (to complete cycle/pedestrian access: see e.g. <http://www.biomorphis.com/Leith%20Walk.html>) over Leith Walk was not in the current LDP. Cllr Gardner added that if LCCC gets things in LDP, transport plan etc, these can help set the 'rules' of the plan. Otherwise possibly developers will set the agenda.

DECISION: CONSIDERATION OF LDP REMITTED TO PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE NEM CON

3.4 Trade waste pilot

A Wilson reported that very few businesses had been consulted: those that had had received confusing information, such that traders don't know how much they will be billed. There has been no real response to requests for information from the Neighbourhood Partnership.

H Tobermann reported that there are three pilot areas for modern trade waste collection. The first (in Rose Street) started in January but 'start' meant start of consultation – actual waste collection started later. The Leith Walk consultation and actual collection started later. The pilots will only last until June, hence not allowing much time to gather data. HT suggested that Edinburgh Council could learn from existing modern trade waste schemes such as the one running in Westminster.

Cllr Gardner reported that he had to intervene when trade waste had been left too long outside Tesco's. He noted that every LW business has been written to but that the letters arrived with a bunch of other material and so may well have been missed. He could not speak about the consultation but noted that collection times (10am-11:30 and 2pm-3.30) arose from consultation. A report on the first 6 months of the pilot is due to go to the transport committee in November – this will be lessons learnt. In the meantime, he requested that people keep him, Cllr Brock and the neighbourhood team informed of their experiences with the scheme. He has prepared a flyer (text in appendix 1) about the pilot.

3.5 Former tram sheds on Leith Walk

The chair has invited the people who wish to establish a transport museum in these sheds to speak to LCCC.

4 Community Police Officer's Report

There has been increased work against violence: increased patrols especially around licensed premises. Problem premises are visited daily. Thanks to information received from the public, 4 knives have been taken off the street.

Operation Rack is combatting housebreakings (HBs). Reported HBs by in the whole Leith area have reduced by 1/3. A flexiteam based at Leith police station (LPS) will go to wherever issues are highlighted. This is about prevention as much as detection. Sgt Flynn stated that people should phone the police if anything suspicious is spotted.

Following on from the dangerous drug detritus recently found in Pilrig Park (item 10.1 in February minutes), the council has now cleaned a lot of the relevant area and the police have inspected the area. Sgt Flynn stated that the police should be phoned by anyone witnessing drugs being used.

H Tobermann pointed out that LCCC's area extends beyond Leith. Sgt Flynn responded that LPS's area covers up to Gayfield Square and London Road. (A map of LPS's area was requested.)

LPS's counter hours are now 7am to midnight, barring unforeseen staff shortages. (These shortages are due to unforeseen illnesses etc, not due to lack of special constables.) There are police surgeries every Wednesday (12noon-2pm, Macdonald Road library). Contacts for LPS include the twitter account: @EdinNorthPolice (<https://twitter.com/EdinNorthPolice>), 101 for non-urgent matters and 999 for any matter believed to be urgent.

5 Cockburn Association

M Williams reported that the CA arose from the work of Lord Henry Cockburn (details here: <http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/default.asp?page=36>) This work is still relevant 150 years later: Edinburgh needs protected and enhanced. The CA has 2 paid staff (Marion Williams [director] and an administrator, and 800 members. It exists solely on donations and legacies from members, so it can be independent. It scrutinises planning lists and takes contentious ones to its committee – there used to be around 5 items considered by CA committee each fortnight – now there are around 20. CA also takes into account views from CCs and other community groups. It tries to remind planning officials where rules (e.g.

conservation rules) might be broken by proposed developments. The CA was very disappointed by the Caltongate decision and suggests that the SHEP test (used by Historic Scotland) is no longer fit for purpose. Currently HS is merging with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (see <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/rcahmsmerger.htm#.Uy3Rblx4gwI>) The CA also comments at strategic levels if consultation is in progress.

MW stated that LDPs have 5-year cycles. The CA believes that housing needs figures may be suspect, questions whether the proposed types of housing based on these figures (e.g. high-cost houses on the green belt) are actually needed and notes that other people cannot afford to live in Edinburgh. It notes that Leith is already very densely populated and so should not get all the proposed new development. It also notes that the quality of build here isn't acceptable (e.g. the Barratt scheme at the Brunswick Road [former post office] site, where an off-the-shelf scheme will not work – in CA's opinion).

C Encombe asked how LCCC could work with CA. MW suggested the best way was to make sure planners obeyed their own guidelines. The CA is also concerned about school rolls and would be happy to help (for example) the planning subcommittee with writing objections based on material factors. The CA agrees with LCCC that brownfield sites should be used before greenbelt land is used (but notes that brownfield sites will not get investment while greenfield sites are available) and believes that new housing in the Leith docks area should be affordable but not low-quality.

MW suggested that LCCC should just keep on challenging the LDP to try to get what it wants. MW warned that Edinburgh risks losing UNESCO world heritage accreditation (as had Dresden) and hence a large amount of tourist income.

The CA is also concerned about student accommodation: the guideline is that no more than 30% of the population in any ward should be students. The CA argues that quality, transport and other infrastructure are needed, not just housing.

J Siann noted that LCCC is focussed on certain areas, e.g. Shrub Hill, and suggested that LCCC and CA should work together. However, he would like to know CA's opinions in advance to aid such co-operation. MW replied that CA had to balance the opinions of many groups and members. JS also suggested that employment from building often trumps historical/conservation arguments. MW replied that builders are often foreign, so that such employment does not help Edinburgh's employment concerns.

MW suggested that LCCC and CA could work together *inter alia* via Edinburgh Civic Forum. (H Tobermann represents LCCC at ECF.)

Cllr Gardner agreed that better-quality housing is needed in Leith but that Leith is already densely occupied. He suggested that piecemeal development cannot provide the necessary amenities (schools, jobs, etc) but that if brownfield sites were not used for housing, they could be amenity sites.

H Tobermann thanked MW for previous collaboration with LCCC and for showing where LCCC and CA overlapped, namely that both prefer quality building and don't want eyesores such as Shrub Hill.

6 CCC Office Bearers' Reports

6.1 Chair, Secretary

No report

6.2 Treasurer

See Appendix 2 for current financial position.

DECISION: CONTINUE WITH CURRENT PUBLIC LIABILITY ARRANGEMENTS (NEM CON)

7 Leith Walk Repairs and Improvements

H Tobermann noted that LCCC has stepped up its efforts to get Edinburgh Council to fix LW. It had just been reported that an extra £1m had been allocated. However HT was concerned that this might bring more delay due to extra discussion on how this money should be spent. HT would attend tomorrow's transport and environment committee meeting: this would consider objections to the current proposed TRO. Three of these objections could not be reconciled, hence a legal process that might cost £20,000 in legal fees was needed. HT suggested that had Edinburgh Council communicated properly this may not have arisen. HT asked for further approval to push harder for speedy repairs. HT noted that the committee could only consider strategic themes, not detail, at tomorrow's meeting.

J Siann asked about the rumours of trams still being planned for LW. He suggested that councillors would receive extreme public wrath if an expensive scheme was implemented and then soon dug up for more tram-works. He suggested that a cheap surface (design life around 7 years) be installed down the middle of LW so that siting a tram line there would minimise financial waste. HT responded that while it is dissatisfactory that we don't know for sure about future tram plans, they are irrelevant to the need for decent road surfaces right now

Cllr Gardner noted that after LW was first dug up in preparation for tramlines, £5.5m was left over for repairs but this was not enough. On the basis of wanting more than simple reinstatement, Sustrans allocated £3.5m for transport integration – if integration does not happen, this money might be lost.

J Hien asked whether there was room for a bus route along the middle of LW. A Wilson said there was not.

8 Friends of Parks Report

Edinburgh Council has raked the park but allegedly not efficiently.

FoPP's committee meeting last week had suggested priorities. The forthcoming general meeting would confirm these. FoPP is still searching for funding.

J Siann spoke about the Redbraes community garden – a small community of gardeners have cleared a fallen tree but Edinburgh Council is unlikely to repair the fence the tree broke from some time. Hence JS has asked the Neighbourhood partnership to help.

9 Planning sub-committee report

9.1 TRO/14/8

A 20mph speed limit near the school will be uncontested if it is effected only during school hours.

9.2 10 Croall Place

This is an area of Leith Walk where a hoarding (1/3 bigger than permitted) has been erected. A retrospective application has been sought for this. The period for comments and objections has passed – 15 objections have been received so Cllr Gardner is hopeful that the application will be refused.

10 Councillors' Report, MP/MSP reports

No reports

11 Open Forum

11.1 Leith Business Improvement District

The Leith Business Association is working towards a BID in Leith. Applications have been submitted to the Scottish Government – a decision on seed funding should be made by the end of March. If seed funding arises, Edinburgh Council's economic development unit will help set up the BID. BIDs work by businesses voting a small levy on their rates, the proceeds of which are used to benefit businesses in the area. If businesses buy in to this, they get access to utilities and other benefits, e.g. national waste schemes. LB is merely facilitating the Leith BID – if it comes about, it will be managed by Edinburgh Council.

Two months after the Leith BID application, a separate one will be made for the Shore area.

11.2 Proposed Lidl store on Easter Road

A resident expressed concern about lorries being able to fit into the store.

12 AOCB

Nothing

13 Dates of future meetings

28 April, 19 May (AGM), 16 June

14 Appendix 1 – text Cllr Gardner’s trade waste pilot scheme flyer

A pilot of a new way of collecting business waste is running on Leith Walk from March 3rd 2014, for six months.

The aim is to cut down the amount of waste sitting out on Leith Walk, making the area tidier, less cluttered and easier to navigate. Two other pilots are running on Rose St and the High Street, and the Council will review the scheme in September.

Businesses have been given daily collection windows between **10:00 – 11:30** and **14:00 – 15:30**. The rest of the time they will have to store their waste off the street. There will be a 15 minute run-in prior to each window where bags, bins or other waste can be put out for collection.

When the pilot comes in there will be an initial 4-week grace period when a freeze will be placed on any Fixed Penalty Notices for having waste on the street outwith these times.

This is a big change for our invaluable local businesses, and there will surely be teething troubles. Local officers aim to work constructively to support and advise businesses through this, especially in the early days.

More information about the pilot, the survey results and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the CEC website: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tradewastepilots>

If you see waste out at the wrong times, and wish to report this, or would like further information, advice or assistance about the Trade Waste Pilot Projects, please contact the City Centre/Leith Neighbourhood Team: citycentreteam@edinburgh.gov.uk or [0131 529 7061](tel:01315297061).

15 Appendix 2 – current financial position

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Cheque No	Credit	Debit	Balance	Bank Balance
2013	Balance b/f					£1,221.80
09-Apr	Minutes B Ryan	351		£30.00		£1,191.80
20-May	Minutes B Ryan	352		£30.00		£1,161.80
15-Aug	Minutes B Ryan	353		£30.00		£1,131.80
14-Sep	Minutes (June) B Ryan	354		£30.00		£1,101.80
14-Sep	C Encombe- domain renewal	355		£20.94		£1,080.86
10-Sep	Edinburgh Council		£989.06			£2,069.92
21-Oct	LGBT	356		£18.68		£2,051.24
31-Oct	Minutes (Aug/Sept) B Ryan	357		£60.00		£1,991.24
27-Dec	Affiliate Mem Cockburn Assoc	358		£40.00		£1,951.24
27-Dec	Minutes (Oct/Nov) B Ryan plus domain link	359		£68.26		£1,882.98
28-Jan	Minutes (Dec) B Ryan	360		£50.00		£1,832.98
TOTALS			£989.06	£377.88		
	Balance b/f		£1,221.80			
	Income		£989.06			
	Total Income		£2,210.86			
	less expenditure		£377.88			
	BALANCE		£1,832.98			