

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Mon 21st August 2017 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

a. Attendance

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Iona McLeod | LCCC | Nick Gardiner | Friend of Montgomery St Park |
| Damian Sefton | LCCC | Lorraine Moore | LCCC Treasurer |
| Sheila Kennedy | LCCC Secretary | Fiona O'Keeffe | Resident |
| Alan Dudley | LCCC | D. O'Keeffe | Resident |
| Paul F Cockburn | Resident | Harald Tobermann | LCCC Vice Chair |
| Jonathan Manning | Resident | Charlotte Encombe | LCCC Chair |
| Iain Watt | Resident | Ella Taylor Smith | Broughton Spurtle |
| Angus Ross | Resident | Julian Sian | LCCC |
| Darius Gareb | LCCC | Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan | Leith walk Ward (SNP) |
| Katherine Chisolm | LCCC | Cllr Susan Rae | Leith walk Ward (Scottish Greens) |
| Lynda Haughney | Resident | Cllr Marion Donaldson | Leith walk Ward (Labour) |
| Liz Ballantyne | Resident | PC Darling | Police Scotland |
| Evelyn Holan | Resident | | |

b. Apologies for absence

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------|-------------------|
| Roberto Colasuonno | LCCC | Bruce Ryan | Minutes secretary |
| Andrew Harlick | LCCC | Ben McPherson | MSP |
| Jeremy Darot | LCCC | | |

c. Declarations of interest

H. Tobermann declared an interest in 6c and 6e as he works for Out of the Blue which has an interest in these.
L. Moore declared an interest in 6e as she is on the Steering Group for Save London Rd Church.

2 Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2017

Item 3.2.2 point 5 should read Shaws Terrace.

Item 4 point 5 should read 2016.

Item 12.1 November meeting confirmed as 27th November

Minutes adopted with changes. (Proposed by Amy McNeese-Mechan and seconded by Iona McLeod)

3 Matters arising from previous month's minutes

Item 4- Action. Mr Henderson to provide relevant contacts to H Tobermann. Not yet provided.

6.2 H. Tobermann has asked the CEC to produce a planning application for the meanwhile use of the tram depot at 165 Leith Walk.

6.3 Harald Tobermann has informed the CEC that application 17/01742/FUL to change an existing shop into a flatted dwelling is against council policy.

7.1.1 Cllr Marion Donaldson has emailed the appropriate document to Harald Tobermann.

7.1.4 B Ryan will put updated bus diversions on the LCCC website in due course.

10 J. Caldwell not present so no update available.

4 Community Police Officer's report by PC Darling

- Operation Elbrus: targeting hot spots of antisocial behaviour. Increases police presence for 1 week
Licenced premises checks are now finished.
- Neighbourhood alert scheme can be used to inform residents of various activity in their area eg bogus workmen or internet scams. Residents can sign up at www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk
- A summary of crime in the area was outlined.
Housebreakings 5yr mean down 34.5%
Assault 5yr mean down 25.4%
Road safety All community officers now trained and deployed on pedal bicycles on walkways.
Patrols covering Dalmeny St Park and Montgomery St Park where youths have been causing problems.

Theft of MV 5yr mean down 24.2%
Theft from insecure MV 5year mean up 46.3%
Hate Crime 2 both solved.
Drug Possession 9
Threatening and Abusive behaviour 1

- d. Powderhall village experiencing parking difficulties. TRO issued to paint double yellow lines.
- e. Resident asked about motor bikes parked on the pavement outside Pilrig Church. This is a regular occurrence. Suggested that police should be informed and they will come and check.
- f. For Drugs issues phone Crimestoppers. Police need intelligence before a warrant can be issued.

5 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports

a. Treasurer

Block grant has been received and when the cheque clears the account will stand at £2886.74.
 B Ryan had requested a payment of £25 to upgrade to No ads Word Press. The cheque will be sent.

b. Progress of subgroup draft remits

It was intended that the working groups would come up with a draft remit but the holiday period has delayed this.

The idea is that approval will be sought from the community council so that the groups will be able to work autonomously. It was suggested that a named person should be appointed to facilitate contact within each group.

Named Person

- 5.4.1 Julian Siann Planning
- 5.4.2 Harald Tobermann Transport and Clean Streets.
- 5.4.3 Charlotte Encombe Parks and Green Spaces.
- 5.4.4 Jack Caldwell Communications
- 5.4.5 Iona McLeod Parking
- 5.4.6 Andrew Harlick Equalities Officer

Action: J.Siann;H.Tobermann;C.Encombe;J.Caldwell;C.Encombe;I.McLeod;A.Harlick

Charlotte Encombe will send out a reminder 1 week before the next meeting. Action: C.Encombe.

c. Update from the Communications Group.

The Notice Board has been moved to a prominent position on the east side of the library and has been cleaned of old information. It was used to advertise tonight's meeting.

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- a. 254 Leith Walk. Proposed Student accommodation. Nothing can be done. Upheld and goes to the Reporter who may look at it with a fresh eye if appealed.
- b. Drum Property Group 106-160 Leith walk. Decided to put a marker down. Be proactive and ask CEC to put a master plan in place. This is the site containing Leith Depot who are mounting an active campaign to oppose it. There is the possibility of getting the actual building listed as Historical Environment Scotland have new criteria for listings based on importance to the locality.HT requested further information to confirm this.
Action: H.Tobermann
- c. Old Tram Depot 165 Leith Walk. Piece meal interim planning but housing eventually. HT prefers more concrete plans. May be driven by the suggested extension of the tram line as the site would be used as a temporary depot during the works and the demolition paid for.
www.leithcreative.org can be used to suggest ideas for the "Meanwhile Use". Present artists in the building at the front will decant into shipping containers to allow the building to be refurbished. Civic Soup can access German market stalls for use.
 Idea of a Leith Hub for local services has lost momentum and may be reduced to the small building at the front.
- d. And (f) Cambridge Avenue. B&B being run over 3 consecutive houses with the same owner which is creating environmental issues, parking issues, change in ambience, increased rubbish, noise. Issues of homes disappearing, key safes appearing for Airbnb. No notification was given to residents, and no change of use was applied for.
 HT has written to the Council and suggests that a response may take some time.

A resident asked if there is a limit on the number of houses in a residential area being used for B&B. Not yet. Council is looking at how this can be managed. Management of Airbnb as well as a Tourist Tax to be discussed at the full Council meeting. There was a suggestion that residents could contact their MSP.

- e. It was agreed unanimously to support the campaign to "Save London Rd Church" in a community buy out to provide amenities for the local area.
- f. Request from a resident Mr G Marchbank to discuss the increased congestion, delay and air pollution as a result of the light phasing at McDonald Rd and Pilrig junctions on Leith walk. This is a CEC Traffic Management matter.
More information is required as to how the phasing has changed. Action: C. Encombe
- g. CE requested information on the makeup of the Alcohol Licencing Board. It is made up of councillors. It is possible to raise objections to proposals.

7 Transport and Clean Streets

- a. Traffic count data prior to the Leith St closure was taken in June.
Developers are paying for alterations to form the Abbey Hill gyratory. Concern about lack of consultation and information on the system. It appears that only roads immediately adjacent to the system had notification. Concern was noted that London Rd which is to be used to remove demolition material from the St James site may become very congested.
It was confirmed that Leith St will remain open for cyclists and pedestrians from 2nd Sept when Leith St closes.
Resident asked if the closure time could be reduced by night working. Leith St has tenements and residents still in place so not possible. It's too late to change any of the working procedures.
HT mentioned that after the Leith St closure will come closures for the Picardy Place remodelling and diversions via Abbeyhill are likely to remain.
HT expressed concern that the Picardy Place works may be used as an excuse to delay the Leith Walk upgrade.
- b. (i) Phase 4 update. Contractor went bust, so plan is behind schedule. Originally to be completed May/June 2017 but now around 10th Nov. Work will restart on 4th Sept.
Compound on Iona St has been removed and will move to Brunswick Rd. Streets between Iona and McDonald will close briefly for pavement work.
Any defects noted should be submitted to Michael Motion and copied to HT. One can ask to be put on the mailing list for updates.
(ii) Phase 5 will probable start next year. There have been objections to the TRO so goes to the Reporter. No Reporter has been appointed yet so the contract can't be put out to tender.
(iii) Phase 6 Outline designs exist. Parking outside Valvona to be remodelled. Suggestion that the plan to make the road at Valvona one way is hampered by the lack of remodelling of the junction at London Rd and hopefully will be relooked at.
(iv) AD raised the issue of the Leith walk cycle track being dangerous for blind and partially sighted pavement users due to the on pavement cycle path having only a small raised section dividing it from the pavement.
AD and Cllr MD have been in contact with Michael Motion and the RNIB. Discussion is ongoing.
AD requested that the LCCC ask for improvements based on the RNIB information.
HT requested the information from RNIB first. AD to supply the information.
Action: Alan Dudley, H. Tobermann
- c. Extended Tramway. Noted. It will happen subject to the business case being robust.
Question as to how local businesses could be compensated as it will impact greatly on them.
Not possible to reduce business tax but there could be compensation schemes.
- d. IMc reported that a meeting had been arranged with Andrew MacKay CEC Traffic Development Officer, Cllr MD, Cllr AMcM, and 4 members of LCCC's parking working group on Tuesday 29th August at the City Chambers to look at parking issues within the area.
Cllr SR pointed out that the Twitter Group Leithsworstparking shows persistent abuse of parking restrictions.
- e. HT has written to Places for People requesting a tidy up of the pedestrian crossing and extra lighting put in. Also that the pavement on the Leith walk stretch be realigned and widened. No response as yet.
- f. CEC report shows that queries on bin collection and street cleaning are down by 27%.
The issue of fly tipping and the removal of the facility to report this online was a difficulty. The phone number suffers from too many options to get through. Offputting.
The CEC twitter account if used in conjunction with Leithers Don't Litter is effective but not everyone tweets. Facebook has recently become less effective.
The issue of removing items urgently eg broken glass is lacking.
The working group Transport and Clean Streets will investigate further. Action: WGT and CS

8. Parks and Green Spaces

- a. (i) Pilrig Park next meeting 4th Sept. More info for next meeting.
(ii) There is a Late Summer Fair at Montgomery St Park on Sat 9th Sept 12.-16.00.
Help needed eg first aiders and volunteers to do a stint on the day.
Contact can be made via the Facebook page.
Permission was given to allow the event to be advertised via the LCCC website.
(iii) No update on Dalmeny St Park
- b. Plans to remove Paolozzi statues to Hillside Park are only proposals.
Consultation with the Paolozzi Foundation, Tom Farmer and the Convenor of Transport and Community Culture will take place.
Will be returned to at a future meeting when more information is available.

9. Councillor's, MSP's, MP's Reports

Cllr MD reported that she is now Vice Convener of Finance and Resources group within CEC working alongside the Convener Alistair Rankin SNP.
The group deals with budget setting which will go out for consultation in September. They will get the Scottish Parliament funding in December.

10. Open Forum

IMcL informed the meeting that an Abbeyhill Colonies' Residents Association has recently been set up with an inaugural meeting on 12th August at which 50 residents attended.
The association hopes to work with the Community council, and ward councillors on matters of mutual interest.

11. Bulletin.

12. AOCB

JH informed the CC that the post box at Brunswick St/ Leith Walk has been removed, and was concerned that it may not be reinstated. He felt that there was a drive to reduce the number of post boxes and agreed to enquire about its status. Action: J. Hein

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th Sept 7.00pm in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Rd Library.