

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 16 March 2015 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

Harald Tobermann (vice-chair) chaired meeting in absence of John Hein (chair)

1.1 Attendance

Marion Donaldson	LCCC	David Jacobsen	resident
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC secretary	Adam Wheavil	resident
Adrian Graham	LCCC	Liz Ballantyne	resident
Ross McEwan	LCCC	Cllr Angela Blacklock	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Irene Sweeney	LCCC	Alan McIntosh	Broughton Spurtle
Harald Tobermann	LCCC vice-chair	Sgt Colin Fong	Police Scotland
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	PC Samantha Rose	Police Scotland

1.2 Apologies

John Hein	LCCC chair	Cllr Maggie Chapman	Leith Walk ward (Green)
Anne Finlay	LCCC treasurer	Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
Leah Lockhart	Greener Leith	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh Northern & Leith (Labour)
		Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)

2 Minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2015

2.1 Adoption

Minutes adopted subject to taking in amendments from I Buchanan (prop C Encombe, 2nd A Graham, *nem con*)

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 Minutes of stakeholder meetings and design principles (item 3 in February minutes)

Iain MacPhail has supplied relevant documents and stated that there were no further meetings

2.2.2 Police representation at LCCC meetings (item 4 in February minutes)

Secretary contacted Leith Police – hence 2 Police at this meeting

2.2.3 LCCC noticeboard (item 5.1 in February minutes)

The Secretary asked for opinions on siting it. LCCC majority view was 'outside McDonald Road library'.

2.2.4 Bins outside Pilrig Church (item 9.1 in February minutes)

I Buchanan replied (via amendments to Feb minutes): *The company contracted to supply the larger communal domestic waste bins for Leith Walk has gone into liquidation. Another supplier has been identified and orders placed with them but roll out may now be 8 to 10 weeks.*

2.2.5 Objection to bus-lane changes (item 10 in February minutes)

Secretary has submitted objection

2.2.6 LCCC emails (item 11 in February minutes)

Reinstated thanks to H Tobermann

2.2.7 Gordon St, Manderson Street (item 11.1 in February minutes)

No direct response from I Buchanan but SG/MS reps have reported meeting with IB

2.2.8 Police interventions at HMOs across Edinburgh (item 2.2.1 in February minutes)

Police Scotland (PS) have now replied that they record attendance at individual premises. Of the 5 or 6 HMOS in Pilrig St, 1 gets majority of PS attention. Sgt Fong stated that such call-outs (including reporting thereafter) can take up to 3 hours of PS time.

2.2.9 Shrub place contractor's portakabins (items 2.2.2 and 14 in February minutes)

CLLR BROCK WAS NOT PRESENT SO COULD NOT REPORT ON HER ACTIONS. H Tobermann reported that pedestrians have to step into the gutter/road to avoid puddles. This is despite Edinburgh Council (CEC) stating that no further action is needed. A resident stated (via Twitter) that 'not just puddles, by having cabins on pavement, the 'new' walkway is v tricky for wheelchairs and blind/partially sighted'. Sgt Fong confirmed that lack of safety due to flooding could be a police matter. It was suggested that the contractors could put portakabins on the vacant site next to this site, and that CEC should make such actions part of planning agreements.

ACTIONS: CLLR BLACKLOCK TO INVESTIGATE, SECRETARY TO CONTACT CONSIDERATE CONTRACTORS SCHEME (<http://www.ccscheme.org.uk>).

R McEwan TO INVESTIGATE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THESE PORTAKABINS, ETC.

2.2.10 Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

This body is going through changes. There is a meeting on 25th April (10:30-12:30). DECISION: R McEWAN TO REPRESENT LCCC. C ENCOMBE TO FORWARD HIM THE DETAILS

2.2.11 Commemoration of Gretna Green disaster

This will be on Saturday 23 May at Pilrig Cemetery. DECISION: LCCC TO SPEND APPROX £25 ON A WREATH (WORDING TO BE NEUTRAL/NON-DENOMINATIONAL/SYMPATHETIC, POSSIBLY WITH LCCC LOGO) NEM CON. There will 400 places at this event.

Out of the Blue and other community groups are presenting a play and exhibition about the relatives of the dead, looking at local community angle.

3 Leith Walk repairs and improvements

There has been no progress since LCCC's last meeting. LCCC will write to Cllr Hinds (transport convenor) to express our distinct dissatisfaction with the process. This may be shared with the *Spurtle* and neighbouring CCs.

R McEwan asked whether there had been consultation about removal of the tusk at the foot of LW, and if so, what were the results. C Encombe noted the area in question is not CEC property, so their options are limited. Concern was voiced by LCCC that remodelling of this area may not be imaginative.

I Sweeney reported that traffic is not stopping at zebra crossings. PC Rose responded that PS has received no calls about this, but that drivers may not be used to such crossings. A Graham reported that Manderson St is being used as a 'rat-run'. PS were concerned that action at one side-street might simply move the problem to another. ACTION: PS TO CONSIDER CROSSING OBSERVATION AND SIDE-STREET USE, THEN REPORT TO LCCC.

H Tobermann noted that the Leith Programme includes installation of yellow lines, and enforcement of parking rules. Until recently, CEC chose not to enforce due to one or two small mistakes by the contractor painting the lines. Enforcement has now started – see <http://greenerleith.org.uk/blog/leith-walk-parking-tickets-5174>.

A resident asked about the revenue from such fines, and whether the repaired stretches of LW should become 20mph zones. Cllr Blacklock reported that the 20mph plan would go before CEC's Transport committee on 17 March 2015, and that a schedule for converting streets to 20mph would be created thereafter. PS reported that citizens could video or photograph poor behaviour, and that PS would take account of such 'evidence'. Putting such footage on YouTube has not yet been tested in court – derogatory comments online might lead to civil prosecution. HT suggested reporting offences to CEC 'enforcers'.

4 Community Police Officer's Report

PS in Leith have recently concentrated on theft from and damage to cars. In one recent week 15-20 car crimes occurred. There were fewer offences over the next two weeks but last week there were another 20. The main cause seems to be valuables left visible in vehicles. Sgt Hong noted that criminals tend to target one area, then another, then move back to the original area. There has been a recent spate of housebreakings near Drylaw, but it is feared that this will return to Leith.

There will be a policing operation focusing on an anti-islamic group on 21-22 March (Pegida <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegida>). This is likely to centre on the top of Leith Walk and the city centre – disruption is likely. We don't know full plans but top of Leith Walk is likely epicentre. Heavy policing/disruption in city centre likely.

PS had not attended previous meetings due to errors, e.g. going to venues on incorrect dates. To ensure PS are fully aware of Leith CCs: ACTION: B RYAN TO SEND MAPS OVERLAYING LEITH CC AREAS AND POLICE BEATS. (See <https://leithccc.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/leith-beats-all-leith-ccs.pdf>.)

The Secretary asked PS to report back on zebra/pedestrian crossings and rat runs. (See item 3, para 3). Sgt Fong noted that it was hard to measure crimes that had been prevented by the presence of police officers. The presence of patrol cars may slow traffic but reduce the volume of traffic. However, should rat-run use get worse, speed cameras could be used. However, these are in high demand, especially at school times.

A resident reported that motor scooter disc locks are now vulnerable to theft due to a new tool.

5 LCCC Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 Chair, treasurer

Absent, hence no reports

5.2 Vice-chair

All matters dealt with in other items

5.3 Secretary

All matters covered in *Matters arising* (item 2.2)

6 Friends of parks' reports

- 10 bird boxes were installed by local school pupils. RSPB will check in May that they are still secure.
- The Edinburgh-wide *Living Landscape* project has received proposals for PP. FoPP wants to consult with locals to ensure that these proposals can be maintained, and that they suit PP. Hence FoPP will meet this week with the heads of the LL project.
- There is a litter pick on Saturday 28 March at 10:30.

C Encombe suggested that there had been too much clearance, reducing bird-habitat considerably. The 10 new bird-boxes would not be a sufficient alternative, while clearance high up trees would allow noise pollution to enter PP. She noted that the nesting season is from March–August, during which time CEC refrains from cutting down trees and greenery. I Sweeney replied that PP is a community park and so needs to be safe – undergrowth has been used for drug taking and as toilets. FoPP is now concentrating on removing self-seeding Sycamore seedlings. A resident **stated that RSPB had approved the clearance and** reminded LCCC of the syringes she collected from uncleared areas last summer, supposedly after CEC had cleaned the areas. However, in her opinion, locals are now using cleared areas. A Graham pointed out that a retaining wall by the Gaelic school is unstable. A resident stated that the school and CEC know about this. It was noted that there is undergrowth near Jane Street but this is the last remaining part.

H Tobermann noted that PP was not on a CEC report about drainage in parks, and asked whether FoPP discussed this matter. There have been drainage problems in PP for a long time.

A resident noted that there were plans for tree-planting near Pentlands country park, and expressed concern that non-native species might be planted. (See February minutes, item 7.) **ACTION: FoPP TO FORWARD THEIR COMPLAINT ABOUT NON-NATIVE SPECIES TO LCCC, SO THAT LCCC CAN ADD ITS WEIGHT TO THIS.**

7 Planning sub-committee report

Concerning purpose-built student housing: **ACTION: SECRETARY TO CIRCULATE A CEC SURVEY, LCCC MEMBERS TO COMMENT.** So that a collective LCCC opinion can be developed, **LCCC MEMBERS TO COPY THEIR RESPONSES TO SECRETARY**

8 Councillors' reports, MP/MSP reports

8.1 Cllr Blacklock

- She attended the Powderhall Residents' Association AGM last week – the refuse depot will close in 2018 (not 2017). She believes a masterplan for the area continuing to McDonald Rd is needed.
- She has received a complaint about a cash & carry in the Bellevue area being open illegally on Sundays. Although this is out of LCCC's areas, she would welcome further information.
- There has been a request for a farmers' market at the former tram depot. Cllr Munro is taking that forward.
- She and Cllr Brock will attend the Gretna memorial. (See item 2.2.11.)
- She has been received no complaints about purpose-built student accommodation that has already been built, although she has received complaints about plans to build more. Therefore people who oppose such plans should submit objections via PAN consultations and similar.

8.2 Cllrs Chapman, Brock, Gardner

Absent, hence no reports

9 Open Forum/AOCB

A Graham noted that there are new video advertising screens on Salamander St (outwith LCCC's area), potentially making driving more dangerous. The secretary noted that she had been contacted about how LCCC had dealt with the screen at Croall Place. (This was bigger and brighter than permitted, but an appeal against enforcement is pending.) Cllr Blacklock noted that safety is considered when deciding whether to permit such screens. However, HT noted that traffic isn't a strictly a planning consideration. A McIntosh noted that the Croall Place screen is next to a current building site, so it was granted transitional permission – it would not be permitted when people are living there.

A resident suggested that LCCC runs a general election hustings for its constituency. It was noted that the Spurtle will run such an event in April (See <http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/events> for details.) **ACTION: D JACOBSEN TO INVESTIGATE OPTIONS.** Because LCCC's independence referendum event cost £100 (sound system was free): **DECISION: LCCC WILL SPEND UP TO £100 ON THIS EVENT IF GOOD PROPOSALS COME FORWARD**

A resident noted that there will be a large anti-fascism demonstration at George Square in Glasgow (10:30).

Following a resident's query via Twitter whether LCCC meetings are accessible to disabled people, it was noted that the meeting venue had suitable ramps and toilet facilities.

10 Dates of future meetings

Mostly 3rd Monday of the month: 2015: 20th Apr, 18th May, 22nd Jun