

# Meeting of Leith Central Community Council

Monday, 17 November 2025 at 7pm

at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library

## Draft Minutes

### Summary of actions

Action	Who
JW to send KK the contact information for the licensing forum	JW
KK to take forward work developing a policy for late night licensing applications and bring to January meeting.	KK
CE to respond with comments on the Leith Place Plan as the main point of contact.	CE
JC to follow up on planning issues at 106 - 162 Leith Walk Edinburgh EH6 5DX (20/05553/FUL)	JC
SP requested a copy of the September minutes – CE to send to SP	CE
JC to bring a proposal for pavement trees in Trafalgar Street to January LCCC meeting	JC
JM to be made Facebook admin	SP

**Attendance:** Alan Dudley, Charlotte Encombe, Harald Tobermann, Jed Milroy, John Wilkinson, Kara Kileen, Simon Preston, Clr. Jack Caldwell, Cllr Amy McNeese Mechan, Alice Lord (taking minutes)

**Apologies:** Luci Holland, Clr Susan and Clr James Dalglish and Sheila Kennedy

### 1. Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

- a. No declarations of interest in any items on the agenda declared.
- b. Order of business agreed.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary LCCC Meeting ([20-October-2025](#))

Minutes agreed. AD Proposed and JW Agreed.

### 3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

No	Actor	Action	Expected completion date
1	HT	File STL Policy & add review to future agenda by next meeting <b>completed</b>	17/11/25
2	CE, SR	CE to share PBSA figures report with Cllr Susan Rae. Cllr SR to forward on PBSA figures report to relevant committee. <b>No update</b>	17/11/25
3	CE	CE to write to MSP Ben Macpherson re PBSA reform <b>complete.</b>	17/11/25
4	CE	CE to object to 3 planning applications listed in her paper <a href="#">recent STL applications in LCCC area</a> <b>completed.</b>	17/11/25
5	CE	CE to write again to planning officer and express importance of a response regarding affordable housing at 106 - 162 Leith Walk Edinburgh EH6 5DX (20/05553/FUL). <b>item 7 below</b>	17/11/25
6	JC	Regarding adherence to planning condition at PBSA development under construction at 27 Arthur Street - Cllr JC has confirmation that in September 2026 the wall destroyed during the works will be replaced. Cllr to share a copy. <b>No update</b>	17/11/25
7	SP	Write to CEC regarding <a href="#">"Elm Row Cycle Path: Incomplete Works and Continuing Safety Risk"</a> . <b>item 8 below</b>	17/11/25
8	JC	Investigate progress in replacing missing bus trackers in LCCC area <b>item 8 below</b>	17/11/25
9	JW	Check when funding comes into LCCC account – <b>completed, £1,196 added to our account.</b>	17/11/25
10	KK(supported by SK, AE)	Licensing Policy for LCCC to be developed in coming months to aid future discussions on later opening times. <b>item 6 below</b>	17/11/25

#### 4. Policing Matters

- Local (ward) Police Report Leith Central CCM ([November 2025](#)), presented by PC Campbell Blackmore.
- Highlights from this presentation included that at two premises on Leith walk successful action has been taken after warrants were issued to investigate premises handling stolen goods. The Co-op was experiencing high levels of theft with their items sold in nearby premises. As part of this operation the illegal huge amount of goods were seized and individuals will be charged.
- Planned operations to remove e-scooters off the street continue.
- 1.1 tonnes of fireworks seized this year which resulted in reduced anti-social behaviour around firework night.

- Local reports of drug dealing to the police have enabled 2 arrests of particularly active individuals. He encouraged members of the public to contact the police about observations of drug dealing. This can be done anonymously through Crimestoppers or via the police website. No personal details need to be given.
  - The police remain busy running patrols on buses and trams. 250 hours of patrols took place and the Chief Superintendent came out to support a shift targeting youth issues on the bus.
  - C/r Amy McNeese Mechan asked regarding shoplifting; how much is for resale and how much is by people who cannot afford food? PC Campbell explained in the operation described above products were being stolen for resale – mainly alcohol and washing powder.
  - HT asked how antisocial behaviour was tackled on buses and PC Campbell explained often a uniformed deterrent was enough or a discussion with the individual. Where this was not effective, those under the age of criminal responsibility were removed from the public transport and taken home to discuss the issue with parents and guardians. Information is passed back to Lothian buses and the Police welcome consequences people experience for not using public transport sensibly including the proposal to remove free bus travel for young people not using public transport appropriately.
  - Concerns were raised about modified e-bikes. PC Campbell pointed to the police social media for updates on efforts to remove unsafe e-bikes from streets, stressing they are useful when used responsibly but will be confiscated if misused. The police plan a drink/drug driving campaign for Christmas including the use of e-bikes and note that targeted action days, where many riders are stopped and checked, are effective.
- b. Upcoming attendance by Community Police Officers noted to be on 16 February 2026 – PC Callum Clark.

## 5. Open Forum (local residents and businesses)<sup>1</sup>

Tracy Griffen provided an update on the planter she maintains on Arthur Street.

## 6. Licensing

- a. [Discussion Paper: towards a LCCC Licensing Policy](#) was presented by Kara Kileen (KK) who has started developing this following on from the creation of the LCCC's short term let policy which enables quick decisions on short term let applications. Kara gave a summary of the paper (linked above).

### Discussion:

- CE thanked KK for this work. Her sense is that the purpose is to find a fair way to agree or disagree with licencing applications for take aways, pubs and other late night operations such as tattoo parlours.
- JM thinks a policy on take away and alcohol would be most useful as we have most requests for this and that it would be good to make sure we are consistent with the council policy. He highlighted the need to balance need to support local business alongside public wants. We should not assume public opinion.
- JW reminded the group of the role of the *licensing forum*.

**Action – JW to send KK the contact information for the licensing forum.**

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<sup>1</sup> this agenda point allows members of the public to raise *new* issues of public interest and relevant to LCCC area; if possible, please indicate your intention to do so to the Chair in advance or under item 1b. (max. 3 x 5 minutes)

- HT expressed that said just because council have dropped 'over provision' as a cause for refusal it doesn't mean our LCCC should and this should be discussed as the policy is developed. He noted that as a diverse and densely populated area the impact of increasing late night venues needs to be carefully considered and that there is an argument for restricting them in our area.
- SP was open to using social media to help gather public opinion on the development of this policy.

**Action: KK to take forward this work and bring to January meeting.**

b. Verbal update on Tourmalet licensing application

An email exchange took place to discuss the application after the meeting in October as public objections came to light. However it was established that decisions made in the meeting hold and we would not object to the application. The policy being developed will help future decisions of this nature.

## 7. Planning

a. *to note:* [Draft Leith Place Plan](#)

- Joanne and Ethan presented their work to develop a draft Leith Place Plan which will cover three Community Council Zones. They are members of Leith Harbour New Haven Community Council and they run EYLA – they explained they have skills in this area and didn't want to miss this opportunity to influence development in their local community.
  - They summarised the findings from the surveys and showed how the plans were developing.
  - Public engagement has included 300 respondents to each survey, and work with schools. Many written responses have been very detailed. The surveys pulled out common themes of concerns about e-bikes, shorter lets, new student accommodation. This provides a body of evidence to help argue for the changes residents want to see in the future.
  - The deadline for the submission of the final Leith Place Plan will be the middle of next year. CE agreed to be the main point of contact for this work. The draft is due to be completed next week and they will send this to LCCC. CE will respond with comments at the main point of contact.
  - CE thanked them for their work creating this document.
  - It was noted that the public consultation phase of this document is now over but due to funding from Awards for All they will be able to exhibit the results and involve the local community in the findings. KK noted that the wider Edinburgh 2040 plan still has events happening so there are still chances to feed into that.
- b. *to note:* verbal update on planning issues at 106 - 162 Leith Walk Edinburgh EH6 5DX (20/05553/FUL)
- HT shared that fencing has been put up by the housing association. He explained it is worth considering parking as none of the planned developments have garages and the intention was that it would be a low car development however there are now lots of cars there and it is not being controlled. The organisation who inherited that planning condition should be written to and an enforcement action then proceeded..
  - HT asked who is responsible for access to the site as recently someone got access and poured paint over a shop front. Now it is easily accessible and this is leading to vandalism.

- HT asked Cllr JC what would be our best strategy to get the council to respond to requests for enforcement. JC was concerned about the continued lack of response especially given the statutory obligation and will follow up.
- c. *to note:* any other Planning matters relevant to LCCC area
- Email received for Pre application notification application for the Dalton – it is outside our area so no action to be taken.
- CE shared short Term Let applications this month. Another 9 have come through which CE will object to in line with the LCCC policy on short term lets.
- JM thanked CE for this work.
- CE received email from Leith Links Community Council about aparthotels and the group discussed the concerns that aparthotels work outside the existing legislation for short term lets. No action was agreed but applications for Aparthotels will be monitored and discussed as they come up in the future.
- Kara has attended understanding planning training and will give an update next meeting.

## 8. Transport & Clean Streets

- Noted HTs LCCC Transport & Clean Streets Update ([November 2025](#)). Planning permission has been granted with the condition of producing a sensible plan for continuity of transport provision during the works. A building nearby is also planning similar work and it was suggested that a similar requirement be requested for that planning permission.
  - The [progress](#) “Elm Row Cycle Path: Incomplete Works and Continuing Safety Risk” was noted. Red items will be done by March next year and Amber handed over to council. The green items will go into general council issues to be dealt with in the longer term.
  - Work on going to rationalise laybys.
  - Consultation on new tram lines continues – preparing for the Strategic Business plan. HT not happy with the wording of the consultation as it is not clear. HT offered to write a short reflection to the current consultation and AD was supportive.
  - HT mentioned the rolling bin review and streets in our area will be affected. We have until 5<sup>th</sup> Decemberso if you live locally please input.
  - Cycle hire scheme now operating in our area – bikes lock when you try and leave the area. Have to go slow in the parks. JM has tested bikes and confirmed speed restrictions work.
  - Works on St Marks parkpath will continue after Christmas.
  - ST provided an update on out of date path markings. The issue has been recognised by the council but is still only likely to be corrected as part of a longer term improvement programme.  
ST did a social media post on the parking challenges at Elm row and there was lots of engagement and people mostly stayed calm but people are very frustrated about Elm row and criticised lack of progress.  
It is a complete and utter shambles.
- Update given on progress regarding (missing) bus trackers in LCCC area. 2 outstanding bus trackers to be done and work is in progress.
  - JC to bring a proposal for pavement trees in Trafalgar Street in January.

## 9. LCCC Governance

- to note:* monthly report on LCCC's on- and offline engagement.

**Action: SP requested a copy of the September minutes – CE to send to Simon**

- Website had 455 unique visitors last month, up from the previous month.
- Facebook saw major growth: +48 followers, 14,600 page views, 7,300 unique users.

- High-engagement posts included traffic accident data and local safety campaigns (up to 8,000 views).
- A second Facebook admin is urgently required to avoid councillors being placed in admin roles. JM offered to assist.
- b. The updated [Privacy Notice](#) created by SP was noted. This will need updating each year.
- c. It was noted there are still LCCC vacancies and need for recruitment especially for Vice Chair and for a new chair. HT explained this will be his final month of making the agenda.

## 10. Parks & Green Spaces

- a. Friends of Pilrig Park (FoPP) have a little pick on last Saturday of the month at 10.30am. tools provided.
- b. Friends of Montgomery Street Park shared the new copy of Montgomery Parklife Magazine. This is entirely written and produced by volunteers. Montgomery Street Park were finalists at the Creative Edinburgh Awards.
- c. Dalmeny Street Park have planted trees.

## 11. AOCB (LCCC members)<sup>2</sup>

- a. Noted the [letter re Marionville Fire Station](#) by Ben Macpherson MSP.
- b. CE wished all a Happy Christmas and New Year and thanks all their hard work this year. CE reminded all that the LCCC urgently need more members so please reach out to your friends and networks.

## 12. Bulletin<sup>3</sup>

None

## 13. Future Meetings and planned meeting topics/presentations

- a. *to note*: always the third Monday of the Month  
**2026**: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18 (AGM), June 15 (policy reviews)

## Appendices

- Attendance summary [here](#)
- City of Edinburgh Council Scheme for Community Councils ([March 2025](#)) - our "constitution"
- (interactive) [map of LCCC area](#)

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<sup>2</sup>this agenda point allows LCCC members to raise issues not covered by the agenda

<sup>3</sup>Items of local interest that may be raised at a future LCCC meeting - not for discussion at this meeting)