

# Ordinary Meetings of Leith Central Community Council

**Monday, 15 June 2026 at 7pm**

*at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library*



## DRAFT Minutes

**Attendance:** Charlotte Encombe (chair), Rachel Hutton, Alan Dudley, Lisa Clark, Kishan Patel, Lyndsay Crawford, Robert Mhuru, Harald Tobermann, John Wilkinson, David, Cllr Jack Caldwell, Simon Preston, Catherine Anderson (minutes)

**Apologies:** Jed Milroy, Luci Holland, Cllr Susan Rae, Cllr Amy McNeese Mechan, Cllr James Dagleish, Martina Pugliese

### Summary of actions

| Action                                                                                          | Actor |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Gather more information on legislation surrounding STLs as it applies to aparthotels.           | JC    |
| Look into progress being made by Hillcrest to provide affordable housing at 106-162 Leith Walk. | RH    |
| Make enquiries about flytipping next to council bins on Leith Walk.                             | JC    |
| Feed back on work being done in the council to improve communication with community councils.   | JC    |

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

- Due to JM's absence, there is no musical overture to today's meeting.
- No declarations of interest in any items on the agenda are declared.
- The order of business below is agreed. HT thanks MP for putting the agenda for today's meeting together.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary LCCC Meeting ([18 May 2026](#))

AD approves the minutes and JW seconds. The minutes are approved.

### 3. Actions and Matters Arising from previous minutes (included on agenda below where noted)

| No | Action                                                         | Actor          | Status        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1  | Update website and email inboxes due to office-bearers changes | Office bearers | Ongoing       |
| 2  | Review LCCC email system                                       | Office bearers | Item 10 below |
| 3  | Fill Engagement Questionnaire for LCCC members                 | LCCC           | Ongoing       |

| No | Action                                                                                                                         | Actor | Status       |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| 4  | CE to write to council officers to provide evidence that development on a site on Pilrig Street has not commenced on the site. | CE    |              |
| 5  | JC to confirm that the lack of accessible footpaths is a red-level issue for the post-tramworks project.                       | JC    |              |
| 6  | HT to report back on repairs to the damaged wall on Arthur Street.                                                             | HT    | Item 7 below |

#### 4. Policing Matters

- Police officers Lyndsay Crawford and Robert Mhuru present the local (ward) Police Report ([May/June 2026](#)):
  - The officers note the use of illegal motorised bikes in the area, which they are taking steps to mitigate.
  - JW notes that many drivers are not observing the 20mph speed limit in parts of the ward, the officers respond that they are using speed guns in the area to tackle this.
  - JW raises the amount of graffiti in the area, and the officers note that this can be reported to the council. JC notes that there will be additional funding for graffiti cleaning services from the visitor levy.
  - HT notes that PC Callum Clark is leaving the community policing group after 14 years, and thanks PC Clark for his regular attendance of LCCC meetings.

#### 5. Open Forum (local residents and businesses)

- Local resident D notes that a PBSA in near Halmyre Street could be turned into accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. JC notes that this is currently going through the planning process in the council.
- D says he is not concerned by this use, but is concerned that the building itself may not be appropriate, as a lot of vulnerable people will be housed in a very small space. He also expresses concern that the PBSA was funded by a bank which also funds settlements in the West Bank of Palestine.
- LC states that she has had a conversation with SR about this issue recently, as local residents may be concerned about anti-social behaviour in the area. LC says it is important not to malign people, but further conversations may need to be had about this change of use.
- CE says she has lived near temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness for a number of years and has not had any issues.
- D emphasises that he is not concerned about accommodation for people experiencing homelessness appearing in the area, but is concerned about this particular building not being fit for this purpose.

#### 6. Planning

- [Recent STL applications](#) that have been objected to in line with LCCC's policy are noted, which CE says are still coming in thick and fast, with most being refused:
  - CE draws attention to 254 Leith Walk, an aparthotel. CE says aparthotels are proving difficult to challenge due to weak legislation on the issue.
  - JC agrees to look into this topic further and bring more information to the next LCCC meeting.

**Action: JC to gather more information on the legislation surrounding STLs as it applies to aparthotels.**

- HT presents items concerning the upcoming City Plan 2040 (interim step approved by [Planning Committee 03-06-26](#)).

- I. Members note the [Evidence Reports on 26 topics](#)
- li. Members note the [City Plan 2040 timetable](#), and HT highlights the call for ideas which is due to be opened up after the summer.
- lii. Members note the [Cockburn draft "Manifesto"](#), which raises a number of issues that have been discussed at LCCC meetings, and suggests that LCCC may want to engage with Cockburn. CE suggests putting time in the August LCCC agenda to discuss the City Plan.
- HT highlights the [ward 12 profile \(based on 2022 Census\), covering LCCC area \(p47\) - and neighbouring wards for comparison](#). JC notes the latest [Edinburgh by Numbers](#), which may be of interest to LCCC.
- HT presents an [update on affordable housing](#) as part of 20/05553/FUL 106 - 162 Leith Walk after this issue was discussed at [the May LCCC meeting](#). HT notes that the council response signals that Hillcrest will move forward with affordable housing provision on the site. RH offers to try to find out more information about Hillcrest's progress.

**Action: RH to look into progress being made by Hillcrest to provide affordable housing at 106-162 Leith Walk.**

- No other planning matters relevant to the LCCC area are noted.

## **7. Transport & Clean Streets**

- a. HT presents the LCCC Transport & Clean Streets Update ([June 2026](#)):
  - A temporary fix was made to the road at the Dalmeny Street/Leith Walk junction, which is coming loose due to vibrations from passing vehicles. A permanent fix to this part of the road is planned.
  - An update has been provided on the damaged boundary wall on Arthur Street, which LCCC has been taking action on due to a risk to public safety.
- b. CE opens the floor to other Transport & Clean Streets items relevant to the LCCC area:
  - D notes that bins near the red sandstone building on Leith Walk have been the site of flytipping. JC says he will enquire about this issue.
  - JC provides an update on the inconsistent tactile pavements in the area as a result of the tram works, which AD had raised in a previous meeting. JC says these are being treated as red level, and should all be rectified by August.
  - SP raises the issue of overgrown hedges in the Montgomery Street Park area which are covering a large portion of pavements. JC says this can be reported to the council.

**Action: JC to enquire about flytipping on Leith Walk.**

## **8. Parks & Green Spaces**

- a. JW provides an update from Friends of Pilrig Park:
  - The group is having a meeting on June 16th at 6pm at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library.
  - There is a litter pick every month and more details can be found on the park noticeboard.
  - JW represented LCCC at the Leith Gala, which was successful, with a good turnout.
- b. SP provides an update from Friends of Montgomery Street Park:
  - The AGM on June 2nd was well attended, with lots of new faces and four new committee members elected.
  - One issue discussed at the AGM was lighting in the park, which has progressed after a slow implementation process, but now very few people want lighting in the park. However, members do want lighting in the play area.
  - CE highlights the importance of lighting for security in all parks in the area, but says some concerns have been raised about overly bright lights being used.
  - JC notes that red-lit lampposts are due to be installed in Pilrig Park near trees with bat roosting potential.
- c. No other parks & green spaces matters relevant to the LCCC area are noted.

## 9. Licensing

- a. CE says there are no recent licensing applications to update on.
- b. With KK absent, no update on progress towards the LCCC Licencing Policy is provided.
- c. CE notes the [Council consultation on public entertainment](#), which ends on the 4th of August.
- d. No other Licensing matters relevant to the LCCC area are noted.

## 10. LCCC Governance

- a. In KK's absence, no update on the proposal to develop an engagement strategy for LCCC is provided.
- b. HT presents a proposal to move the LCCC website/document storage/email system to [Parish Online package](#), which he and MP will explore and present details of at the August meeting. RH notes free training which an organisation based at Norton Par can provide to make online communications more accessible, and CE suggests raising this at the August meeting when more members are present. RH and SP will discuss this training.
- c. JW provides the treasurer's update:
  - The accounts have gone to governance
  - LCCC has £445 left, and £40 will be sent to Cockburn
- d. SP provides the engagement officer's update on LCCC's on- and offline engagement ([May/June 2026](#)). He notes that online engagement was lower over the past month as he was not at the last meeting, and in future he will nominate someone to take notes of online content suggestions at future meetings.
- e. In JM's absence, CE presents the secretary's update on relevant/urgent incoming correspondence not covered elsewhere on the agenda:
  - There was a noise complaint from a resident, who JM signposted to council contacts.
  - LCCC was contacted by a service that removes negative Google reviews, but suggests taking no action.
- f. CE opens the floor to other LCCC governance issues:
  - RH says that other community councils have been in touch to raise the idea of a youth community council. CE suggests adding this point to the August agenda.
  - CE notes that LCCC has been asked to join the Scottish Forum of Community Councils, and says she would be happy to join but asks for a volunteer to attend. HT suggests that this may not be the best use of LCCC's time.

## 11. AOCB (LCCC members)

- CE highlights that a representative of [Leith Custom House](#) from [SHBT](#) has asked to do a presentation at a future LCCC meeting, and members agree this should be accepted.
- RH raises a consultation process on housing policy that LCCC may want to feed into.
- SP raises previous discussions around council engagement with community councils, specifically addressing the issue of Elm Row. JC offers to feed back on work being done to improve engagement with community councils.

**Action: JC to provide an update on work being done in council to improve engagement with community councils.**

## 12. Bulletin

- a. [Edinburgh's Lost Vistas](#), The Spurtle 29/05/2026
- b. [Aparthotel plans for Edinburgh's Leith Walk given green light despite strong local objections](#), Evening News 05/06/26

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

- a. CE notes that LCCC meetings are always the third Monday of the month.
- B. CE notes that there will be no meeting in July and December.

## Appendix

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