

Ordinary Meeting of Leith Central Community Council

Monday, 17 August 2026 at 7pm

at Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library



Minutes

Attendance: Alan Dudley, Charlotte Encombe (chair), Avril Ewing, Luci Holland, Simon Preston, Martina Pugliese, Harald Tobermann, John Wilkinson, Catherine Anderson (minutes), Cllr Jack Caldwell, Cllr Amy McNeese Mehan, Cllr James Dalgeish, local residents

Apologies: Jed Millroy

Summary of actions

Action	Actor
Enquire about further updates on the closure of the bridge to/from St Mark's Path.	JC and AMM
Invite an engineer from the Council to discuss the future of the St Mark's Path bridge at an LCCC meeting.	HT
Follow up on fixes to tactile pavements in the LCCC area.	JC
Provide a breakdown of costs for LCCC's website/document storage/email system and pros and cons of a new system.	MP
Contact McDonald Road Library about overhanging trees.	CE

1. 🙌 Welcome, introductions, attendance, apologies

- In 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.

2. 🙌 Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary LCCC Meeting ([16 June 2026](#))

SP proposes and AD seconds the approval of the minutes. Subject to several amendments from CE, the minutes are approved.

3. Actions and Matters Arising from previous minutes (included on agenda below

No	Action	Actor	Status
1	Update website and email inboxes due to office-bearers changes	Office bearers	Ongoing - MP sent photo
2	Review LCCC email system	Office bearers	Ongoing, item 10 below
3	Fill Engagement Questionnaire for LCCC members	LCCC	
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	JC to gather more information on the legislation surrounding STLs as it applies to aparthotels.	JC	Done, see 4d
7	RH to look into progress being made by Hillcrest to provide affordable housing at 106-162 Leith Walk	RH	
8	JC to enquire about flytipping on Leith Walk.	JC	
9	JC to provide an update on work being done in council to improve engagement with community councils	JC	

where noted)

4. 🏠Planning

- a. Three representatives from Edinburgh City Council's housing team provide an update to LCCC on [CEC plans to provide temporary accommodation](#) in Halmyre St following the planning application [26/01503/FUL](#):
 - The Halmyre Street development was built as student accommodation, and has gone through the planning process for change of use as temporary accommodation.
 - The building has 215 studios, with three five-bed cluster flats, and eight accessible studios.
 - The unit will be staffed 24/7, 365 days a year, with CCTV operational inside and outside the building.
 - The accommodation is intended for individuals with lower support needs who can live independently.
 - The project is due to be completed in mid-September, with residents moving into the property in November.
 - More engagement sessions for residents and businesses in the local community will be carried out in the coming months.
 - A local resident asks when it was decided to have the use of the property changed, and the Council representative says the PBSA was offered to the Council in April/May.

- A local resident asks what will happen to any students who were due to move into the property as a PBSA, and is told the developers would reallocate any students who were due to reside there.
 - A local resident raises concerns that residents were not adequately consulted in the planning process. Another local resident raises similar concerns, adding that consultation meetings were not adequately publicised. The Council representative says she will share these concerns with her colleagues in the Council's planning department. SP adds that details of community engagement sessions were publicised on LCCC social media but did not receive much engagement.
 - CE asks who will be managing the unit on a daily basis, and is informed there will be three members of staff at any one time.
 - CE asks for a cost comparison with alternative accommodation. The Council representative says a cost comparison would have been carried out and she can come back to LCCC with details on this.
 - A local resident asks how temporary accommodation is defined, and is told it can be up to 36 months.
 - A local resident asks about individuals who may be housed here after leaving the prison estate, noting the Council says "those assessed as posing significant risk will not be placed at this site." He asks how the Council defines low-risk individuals, and is told that risk assessments are carried out by the police, social workers, and prison staff.
 - AE raises concerns about how PBSA is deemed not suitable long-term accommodation, and says that people experiencing homelessness should have the same right to permanent accommodation as everyone else.
 - HT states that it is the decision of elected councillors to make decisions, even if these are decisions we do not like.
 - JC notes that his understanding is that Scottish planning law states that a development has to notify people and businesses within 20 metres of the development. He also notes that he hopes to get an engagement session with individuals living in sheltered accommodation nearby.
 - A Council representative says she understands this is unsettling, and appreciates everyone engaging in the discussion. She says she and her colleagues will take feedback onboard.
- b. Members note the [recent STL applications](#) that have been objected to in line with LCCC's policy, mainly because they are in shared stairs.
- c. Members note the [Easter Road proposed Controlled Parking Zone](#).
- d. Members note [Councillor Caldwell's update on aparthotels](#). JC emphasises that the call for ideas in the City Plan 2040 is open until the end of September, and this is the best place to direct concerns about aparthotels at the moment.
- e. HT presents the [Briefing Paper preparation for City Plan 2040](#):
- The City Plan will underpin every planning decision made in the area, so it is vital for LCCC to feed into.
 - CE proposes that a subgroup is formed to work on the LCCC input into the City Plan. SP volunteers to take part alongside CE and HT.
- f. CE opens the floor to any other Planning matters relevant to the LCCC area:

- A local resident raises a notice he received about telephone masts being erected, which was previously rejected and has now been put forward again. He says this will be an eyesore and asks LCCC to object to the planning application. CE says she will object if the resident sends the previous objection he submitted.
- CE raises the planning application at 50 Pilrig Street. CE, HT and JC all note that they live nearby. CE alleges that the planning permission has lapsed and says she is keen to see the Council enforce this.

5. 🚓 Policing Matters

- Members note the local (ward) Police Report ([June/July 2026](#))
- Members note that Officer Catherine Lynch (which replaces Callum Clark) will be at the November LCCC meeting.
- Members note that a local resident got in touch regarding the [reporting/discussion of attacks on the 19th of June](#), asking why it was not in the ward police report:
 - HT suggests that the armed police unit responded to this incident, and it was not solely under the responsibility of the local police.
 - A local resident asks if LCCC normally receives monthly updates from the police, and CE confirms they do, and notes police officers also regularly attend meetings. MP also notes she updates data every month.

6. 🗣️ Open Forum (local residents and businesses)

A local resident notes that cycling crime has risen recently in the area, including bike thefts. He says he has developed an app for residents to report incidents, and MP says that she will post this on socials.

7. 🚌 Transport & Clean Streets

- HT presents the LCCC Transport & Clean Streets Update ([August 2026](#)):
 - He notes that the bridge to St Mark's Path has been closed indefinitely less than 20 years after it was built, despite being built with a lifetime of 110 years. He notes that the bridge provides access to greenspace for a very densely populated area.
 - JC says he has a question and a motion on this topic at the next Council meeting, and he will report back on this at the next LCCC meeting.
 - Members agree they would like to invite an engineer from the Council to discuss the future of the bridge at an LCCC meeting.

Actions:

- **JC and AMM to enquire about further updates on the closure of the bridge to/from St Mark's Path.**
- **HT to invite an engineer from the Council to discuss the future of the St Mark's Path bridge at an LCCC meeting.**

- b. CE opens the floor to other Transport & Clean Streets items matters relevant to LCCC area:
 - CE raises that the tactile pavements needed as part of the post-tram works project (an issue raised by AD in a previous meeting) has not been finalised.
 - JC confirms this issue is red status, aside from one area which is amber status. He says he will follow up on the status of this issue.

Action: JC to follow up on fixes to tactile pavements in the LCCC area.

8. 🌳 Parks & Green Spaces

- a. JW provides an update from Friends of Pilrig Park:
 - There is a litterpick on the last Saturday of the month, and there is usually a poster in the park boxes about this. This month will be the 29th of August.
 - Lights are being put up in the park, including two with red lighting near trees with bat roosting potential.
- b. SP says he gave a comprehensive update from Friends of Montgomery Street Park at the last meeting, and things are moving forward smoothly.
- c. No other Parks & Green Spaces matters relevant to the LCCC area are noted.

9. 🏠 Licensing

- a. No licence applications are noted.
- b. In KK's absence, no progress towards the LCCC Licencing Policy is provided.
- c. No other Licensing matters relevant to the LCCC area are noted.

10. 🏛️ LCCC Governance

- a. LCCC notes [Cllr Caldwell's communication](#) on key fixes: new 5-day response protocol, recruitment of a Community Council Liaison Officer, JC notes that Alison has expressed interest in attending an LCCC meeting.
- b. In RH's absence, no update on a proposal to develop an engagement strategy is provided.
- c. Members discuss the proposal to move LCCC's website/document storage/email system to [Parish Online package](#):
 - MP notes that several members met to discuss this change and says that the package in total will cost £300 per year per user.
 - AE notes that Harbour and Newhaven CC already use a new system, and MP agrees to approach them to discuss this.

Action: MP to provide a breakdown of costs for LCCC's website/document storage/email system and pros and cons of a new system.

- d. JW provides the Treasurer's update, saying LCCC has about £300 left and should have the next installment in September or October.

- i. Members note the governance email to provide accounts by 31st August
- e. SP presents the Engagement Officer's update on LCCC's on- and offline engagement ([July 2026](#)):
 - It has been the busiest period of engagement LCCC has ever had. The big drivers were posts about affordable housing at Steads Place, overhanging trees and hedges, and the St Marks Path bridge closure.
 - CE asks about overhanging foliage around the library which may be damaging the building. JC advises that the library should be contacted.
- f. No other LCCC governance issues are noted.

Action: CE to contact McDonald Road Library about overhanging trees.

11. AOCB (LCCC members)¹

- CE notes the [Street Party 6th September \(Sunday\) at Stead's Place](#)
- CE notes [Leith Chooses](#), the yearly pot of money which is divided up through participatory budgeting.
- SP raises the cycle lane at Elm Row which has still not been brought to an adequate standard.
- JW notes that he sent £40 on behalf of LCCC to the Cockburn Association.

12. Bulletin

No items are noted.

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

- a. Members note that meetings are always the third Monday of the month except July. The next meeting will be on September 21st. CE thanks MP for putting together the agenda.
- b. Members note that no meeting will take place in July and December.
- c. Members thank CE for chairing the meeting.

Appendix

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

¹ this agenda point allows LCCC members to raise issues not covered by the agenda