

**Minutes (Draft) for Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) Meeting,
Monday 20th June 2011, 7.30pm at McDonald Road Library**

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
John Hein	Vice-chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC (Convenor Planning)
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC/Greener Leith
Ann Stark	LCCC/FoH&CA
Julian Siann	LCCC
Cllr Deidre Brock	Ward Councillor (SNP)
Malcolm Chisholm MSP	North Edinburgh (Lab)
Laura Stobbs	Margaret Black Housing Association
PC Niall Corrigan (1182)	Lothian & Borders Police
Jim Scanlon	Leith Links Community Council
Susan M Brown	Southside Community Council
Deborah Galbraith	Windsor Street resident
Peter Mellors	Regent Place resident
Martin Patrick	Resident

1. Introductions and Announcements

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting. The Agenda was agreed.

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne Munro
Dominic Moran
Juan Garcia,
Walter Dods,
Stan Eadie
Jenny MacKenzie
Lorraine Duckworth
John Brock
Cllr Maggie Chapman
Mark Lazarowicz MP
Nick Gardner
Jennifer Wright

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (11th April 2011)

Approved by Charlotte Encombe, and seconded by Ann Stark subject to correction of item 6(b) Reference to Port of Leith Housing Association should read as "PoLHA"

4. Community Support Worker: Laura Stobbs outlined her post. She is undertaking a pilot community worker post, funded by the Margaret Blackwood Housing Association and the City of Edinburgh Council, and she is based at Abbey Court, Abbey Hill. Her initial focus is supporting people with physical disability, mental health, and drug dependency issues. She will also advise residents on housing, benefits and health matters. Her time is split equally between Margaret Blackwood tenants and the wider community. She can be contacted at: lauras@mbha.org.uk

5. Community Police Officer's Report. PC Corrigan advised that a new Station Inspector – Kevin McLean had been appointed.

Last year the Leith Gala had presented some challenges in respect of drinking and disorder. This year the policing was planned in partnership with the City Council. There were 20 officers and only three arrests, of which two were for minor alcohol related offences. There had been a good response to the policing.

PC Corrigan made reference to the recent fatal cycle accident. There is a road safety initiative for McDonald Road to enforce the 20mph speed limit and there will be fixed penalty fines for inappropriate mobile phone use and for not wearing seat belts. Charlotte Encombe made reference to the junction at McDonald Rd/Broughton and the dangers for cyclists crossing over to St Marks Park. There is a need to reconfigure in order to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists.

Scrap metal theft is an increasing problem due to the rise in its price. Unattended businesses being targeted resulting in a disproportionate cost to owners in respect of damage and repair. A multi-agency approach is being taken in order to address this issue. Police working with Historic England. Commercial vehicles will be stopped.

Working with the City Council to identify young offenders for anti-social behaviour. The police 5 a side pitch will be in use over the summer.

Number of calls in respect of nuisance in the Kirkgate diminishing. Anti-violence campaign instituted targeting off-licenses and public houses. Taxi marshalling service funded by the City Council to be provided for Leith Walk.

Shrubhill House. Derelict but site is secured. Meeting arranged with council and owners but no date set for demolition. Julian Siann noted that the lock to the gate at the Dryden Street access to the adjacent Shrub Place site had been removed. Also there is an abandoned car in Dryden Street. PC Corrigan advised that unless a car is unsafe or untaxed there is little that the police can do.

Finally, pursuing intelligence led drug dealing investigations. Public assistance in providing information is much appreciated for this and also in reporting anti-social behaviour.

6. Matters Arising

Leith Gala: weather and attendance was poor. Will need more assistance if this is to be done again. Newsletter handed out. Cllr Brock and members commended the content and quality of the newsletter.

Boundary Square: No progress (*Subsequently advised that the Contractors for the work at Boundary Square – Buchanan Street (Premier 1) will begin work on site on Monday 11th July 2011 and therefore the road parking bays will be closed from this date. Contractors will supply Corex signage with the dates of the TTRO (Temporary Road Restriction and Traffic Regulation Order) and the wording, No Parking, parking cones will also be put out. Work is expected to last approximately 4 months*)

Leith Biomass Plant: There is a second round of consultation. A new flyer opposing the proposal had been printed. A contribution to the cost had been made by Harbour CC. Meeting approved that LCCC should make a contribution of £100.00.

ASCC membership renewal. Agreed to maintain membership meantime but to be reviewed again next year.

7. Officer's and Councillors' reports.

Treasurer's report.

The treasurer had forwarded a bank balance advice. The current balance is £1726.63 which includes the grant of £950.00 for the exhibition.

Planning sub-committee (psc). Convenor's report (Annette O'Carroll).

An objection will be made in respect of a ground floor rear garden extension. It is contrary to Planning guidelines. Cockburn Association are also to object.

Brunswick Road former post office site. Owner proposing temporary use to lease to car rental company to store cars. Cars would be uplifted and transported to rental customer pick-up point. There were some concerns about early morning noise and traffic generation near to Leith Walk Primary School.

80 Albion Way. Seven attendees at presentation of proposed mid-market housing.

Leith Walk Action Plan

Presentation of Environmental Plan by Ian Buchanan of the Neighbourhood Partnership of a 10 year vision with £2million for public works budgeted. Annette advised that Leith Traders are unhappy over the trams uncertainty. She also referred to the problems with the trade waste bins. Other members commented on these often overloaded and spilling over. A meeting is arranged for the 25th August to discuss Modernising Waste Services - possibly halving bin numbers whilst increasing collections. A Leith flag is now available but requires planning consent. Introduced to Sarah Woodford who is employed by the Chamber of Commerce. Annette happy to represent Community Council at business meetings.

Cllr Brock's Report

Cllr Brock acknowledged that as a result of these waste problems on Leith Walk there was little incentive to adopt the same system for the New Town. The situation is exacerbated because there is no cleansing of the bins. A report on the trams will go forward to a full council meeting on the 30th June. A decision regarding the extent of the route to be made.

Launched a programme of events with the Children's Laureate.

Malcolm Chisholm MSP

Works to mitigate "pong" at Seafield now complete and monitoring now in place.

Pursuing quality of care for older people following closure of Elsie Inglis Nursing Home.

Independent Consultants, Deloitte have been appointed to undertake an external investigation of the City Council Private Common Repairs Section. All work frozen except for emergency repairs. Likely to be changes. Cllr Brock noted that maintenance of tenement properties still an issue.

8. Open Forum

Charlotte Encombe stated that Greener Leith and Pedal Portobello are seeking financial support to fund a feasibility study for a community wind turbine within the Seafield sewage works. This could be the first Scottish community owned urban turbine. It would be visible from Portobello Beach. Strong community support will increase the likelihood of the project progressing.

9. Date of next meeting.

To be held on Monday 15th August at McDonald Road Library.