

**Draft minutes for meeting of Leith Central Community Council held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 20 February 2012 at 7.30-9.30pm**

**Attendance**

John Hein	Acting Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Communication and minutes LCCC
Annette O'Carroll	Convenor Planning sub-committee LCCC
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Martin. Patrick	LCCC
Julian Siann	LCCC
Juan Gardia Navarro	LCCC
Ann Stark	Friends of Hillside Crescent Association
Maria Kelly	Chair Gorgy/Dalry CC
Ian Dyson	Bethany Christian Trust
Loraine Duckworth	City of Edinburgh Council
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC and Greener Leith
Phil Attridge	Pilmey Youth Centre
George Johnston	Friends of Water of Leith Basin
Cllr Deidre Brock	Leith Walk ward (SNP)
Mary Moriarty	Leith Festival Board member
Kerry McGibbon	Resident
Rebecca Harton	Resident
Mark Armstrong	Resident
Sarah Marsh	Resident
Ken O'Neill	Resident
Andrew Cart	Resident
Mal Cochrane	Resident
Sue Lannon	Resident
Nick Gardner	Labour candidate
Mike Penny	Neighbourhood Partnership Manager, City Centre and Leith

**1.0 Introductions and Announcements**

**2.0 Apologies for absence**

MSP Malcolm Chisholm	Lab. North Edinburgh
PC Mark Hamilton	Lothian and Borders Police
Jim Scanlon	Chair of Leith Links CC
Stan Eadie	LCCC
Peter Mellors	Resident
Seamus Skinner	SNP candidate

**3.0 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 16 January 2012**

Approved by Roland Reid.

Seconded by Julian Siann

#### **4.0 Community Police Officer's Report**

No officer in attendance. No report.

#### **5.0 Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) Update**

Mike Penny provided an update on a number of relevant issues.

**1.** He confirmed that the **Community Plan** was launched in December and this outlines what the Partnership envisages for the next five years for the area. The way of delivering the priorities is changing, with community-led sub-groups being formed to bring work on issues like littering into the structure. He said that the Partnership recognises that there is significant strength in community engagement.

**2.** The **Leith Decides** project is again an attempt to move decision making away from one or two council officials to collective decision-making by the community. Called Participatory Budgeting, Leith is currently leading the way with this concept in the city. Approximately £20,000 has been set aside for awards to community groups who will bid for up to £1,000 for projects they put forward. The community can vote for the groups they believe most suitable for awards. Twenty-seven groups are taking part. He confirmed that more than half the awards allocated last year were to groups that had never applied before. The decisions that were made in 2010 as a result of public voting were significantly different to those that had been made before. He acknowledged that though there were flaws in the process, as in all systems, the benefits of active community engagement in the decision-making outweighed the administrative problems. Voting can be done at the Leith Decides event at Ocean Terminal on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February between 1pm and 3pm. Members were urged to take part and register their vote.

**3.** A police-led initiative called **Street Week** has focused on Albert Street and Buchanan Street in a joint-led partnership activity between Leith Safer Neighbourhood Team, City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue. Between 10am and 4.30 each day premises and dwellings in the area were visited by all three agencies offering advice on community concerns, housing assistance and fire safety checks. Packs were left for those not home at the time of the calls. Street surgery between 12 and 1pm also took place.

**4. Leith Walk:** Scottish Water are committed to further works in the road, which are likely to take six months to complete. The works would need to be done before the future possible installation of the tram route to Newhaven, which is still being discussed, and are required to update basic services. Side entry manholes will be constructed. When the works are complete, the £3m set aside for the resurfacing of the entire carriageway will pay for this work in both Leith Walk and Constitution Street. One member said that a better quality control needs to be in place to ensure that road repairs are completed to a sufficiently high standard. Mike Penny confirmed that reinstatement agreements do require that the surface must be left 'as was'. He also confirmed that constant reinstatement works are being carried out on work done in the recent past. It is not possible to plant big trees, but very large tubs like those in Multree Walk would be suitable and are being considered.

#### **6.0 London Road – Commercial Vehicle Lay-up on London Road**

Night and early morning disturbance for residents.

A resident described the inconvenience caused to residents in London Road, Hillside Crescent and Brunswick Street by coaches, cabs and buses using the conjunction of the roads as a rest area during the day and all through the night. Engines are

continuously turned on and off, with some vehicles, particularly black cabs, idling engines for sustained periods. Lothian Buses also use the area as a turning bay. Despite repeated contact with Environmental Wardens, the problem continues and is causing severe disturbance to local residents.

**NP manager Mike Penny** said that environmental wardens can issue on-the-spot fines and that night-time provision could be extended to attend to this problem. He recommended contact with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and noted that further contact will be made with Lothian Buses.

**Cllr Brock** confirmed that she is working in response to seek solutions to these problems. She has requested a meeting with the Managing Director of Lothian Buses Ian Craig, and is in the process of contacting the Cab Inspector to discuss this matter.

## **7.0 Matters Arising**

### **7.1 Splashback – Campaign to Save Leith Water World**

Nothing to report

### **7.2 Leith Biomass Plant – withdrawal of application by Forth Energy**

Some concerns expressed about future plans for the area.

### **7.3 Wind Turbine at Seafield**

Greener Leith reported that discussions are still in progress to address PFI concerns about sufficient indemnity being provided against possible damage to the current sewage plant by a turbine being installed in the vicinity.

## **8.0 Open Forum**

- Request that the CC oppose an application for a radio mast to be included inside the Ukrainian Church at Dalmeny Street. Members noted the government advises that there is no danger to health from the masts. An objection on the grounds of over-provision was not agreed, but it is recorded that concerns for the health of young people attending clubs in the adjoining hall were expressed.
- Mary Moriarty of the Leith Festival Board requested support for the Pageant which precedes the Gala Day, scheduled for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, to be re-directed down Leith Walk this year, instead of via Lochend as required in recent years because of road works related to the tram. CC to write a letter of support to the CEC Events Organisers. Some policing costs may be incurred for closing side roads during the Walk parade. Some local businesses have pledged financial support.
- Ian Dyson of Bethany Christian Trust introduced himself as the new-in-post community facilitator, keen to build links in the area. He urged contact from residents who were aware of needs relating to young people or older people needing help with shopping. The Trust is keen to strengthen community cohesion.

## **9.0 Leith Time Bank**

Director Anne Munro described a new project being launched by Pilmeny Development Project (PDP) called Time Banking “a highly effective tool for developing social networks and building social capital”. The concept originated with Dr. Edgar S Cahn, a civil rights campaigner dedicated to social justice. He called the work of caring for and raising children, older people or the disabled, volunteering or being a community activist The Core Economy, the work that underpins everything else. A Time Bank normally has a Time Broker (a successful Westerhailes project has 60 members, one part-time paid broker and another volunteer broker). The Broker visit’s the member needing help and matches needs to help on offer from other

members. Brokers also carry out the administration and organisational duties. The currency is time and one hour equals one credit. PDP's plan is to develop a small local pilot focusing on older people, contacting existing local organisation and residents as an initial step. Some members signed a list to join the PDP Time Bank. Further details can be provided by PDP on 0131 5532559.

Leith Decides: Members were asked to support a voting procedure for Leith Decides in which local organisations bid for up to £1,000 to carry out projects. Stalls will be on display at Ocean Terminal on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 1-3pm. Bids are allocated by the number of votes received. Pilmey Youth Centre are bidding for money for a new pool table and Pilmeny Development Project are bidding for a lap-top for the Time Bank project.

### **10.0 Officers' and Councillors' Reports**

Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Planning etc.

**The Chair** suggested that, to allow for such busy agendas, meeting start times should be moved forward by half an hour to 7pm instead of the previous start times of 7.30. Agreed.

#### **Secretary's report:**

A street trader has applied for a licence to sell food in Stanwell Street, near to Bonnington Primary School. It was suggested that the CC write requesting refusal of this application. Licences are renewed annually.

The CC preferred instead that a letter be written urging that the food sold was appropriate to the good health of children in the area and noting that licences are renewed annually.

#### **Treasurer's report:**

The balance for LCCC stands at £1506.46.

**Cllr Brock** reported that at the February 9<sup>th</sup> budget meeting, Edinburgh benefited by an extra £22m this year from the Scottish Government. As a result extra money will be directed towards schools, road repairs, and targeted work for people with disabilities, amongst other issues. Five per cent of the transport budget will be allocated to cycling and related issues. Cllr Brock confirmed that the budget related to the financial year for 2012/13, was passed by the council and will not be affected by the forthcoming elections.

Re Sunday closing of libraries: Cllr Brock was pleased to announce that because of an extra £300,000 allocated to the libraries budget, the current Sunday opening times will stay in place across the city.

#### **Planning sub-committee (Psc) report.**

The convenor told the CC about a suggestion by CEC planning officials that a separate Pilrig Conservation Area (PCA) be considered, with a Character Appraisal of the area being done by several members of the Psc. A possible boundary for a PCA would include Pilrig Park (with Pilrig House as the key historical focus) Bonnington School, Rosebank Cemetery, Rosslyn Crescent, the 1930s housing between this and Dryden Street, Shrub Tram sheds (industrial heritage) the Shaws Colonies, Spey Terrace, Balfour Street and Pilrig Cottages. Preparatory work would include ascertaining the historic and architectural interest of the Pilrig area and then getting local people interested and involved. A library exhibition could help with this. The

ideas are the result of a meeting between Psc convenor Annette O'Carroll, Psc member Martin Patrick and Will Garrett and Jack Gillon of the City of Edinburgh Council. A booklet of approximately 16 pages, with pictures and photos included, may be prepared.

Notes for the 6<sup>th</sup> February Psc meeting are available in full on the Leith Central CC blog under 'Minutes'

**11.0 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 19 March 2012. Start time 7pm

(2012 dates -, March 19, April 23, May 14 (AGM), June 18, August 20, September 24, October 15, November 19, December 17)

February 2012