

**Minutes for meeting of Leith Central Community Council held in the McDonald Road
Library on Monday 18th June 2012 at 7.00-9.00pm**

Attendance

John Hein	Acting Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Ann Stark	Friends of Hillside Crescent Association
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC and Greener Leith
Walter Dodds	LCCC
Anne Finlay	LCCC
Alex Wilson	Chair, Leith Business Association
Keith Hales	Vice-chair Leith Business Association
Cllr Maggie Chapman	Leith Walk ward (Green)
Cllr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
PC Colin Johnston	Lothian and Borders Police
Peter Mellors	Resident
Pierre Forissier	Resident

1.0 Introductions and Announcements

2.0 Apologies for absence

Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Mark Armstrong	LCCC
MSP Malcolm Chisholm	Lab. North Edinburgh
Mark Lazarowicz	MP North Edinburgh
Cllr Blacklock	Leith Walk Ward (Labour)
Cllr Brock	Leith Walk Ward (SNP)
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC, Convenor Planning Sub-Committee (psc)
Juan Garcia Navarro	LCCC
Julian Siann	LCCC

3.0 Approval of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 14 May 2012

Approved: Anne Munro

Seconded: Keith Hales

4.0 Community Police Officer's Report

- PC Colin Johnston reported that this was National Bike Week (16-24 June). The Bike Breakfast held at Ocean Terminal earlier in the day had been very successful. Focused on raising the awareness of cyclists of the blind spots that drivers of larger vehicles encounter. High level of bike marking achieved. PC Simon Daly still awaiting stencils but has been successful in obtaining funding and will not require LCCC assistance. First

educational phase of cycle safety initiative had been successful with two stolen bikes recovered. Two officers will be patrolling on cycle. Wearing cycle helmets is advisable but not a legal requirement. The police take a pragmatic approach regarding the compliance of flashing lights.

- Kirkgate. Higher level of police presence.
- Schools. Lorne PS. Focus on safety of pupils when parents are dropping off at entrance. Also raising awareness of internet security and cyber bullying.
- Olympics. L&B police will be providing cover for events.
- Disabled/Elderly Access. Member Walter Dodds expressed concern about vehicles, particularly larger vans encroaching over pavement kerbs and so restricting the free movement of the users of wheelchair and mobility scooters. PC Johnston noted that although it was an offence to drive on the pavement it was not an offence to park on it. However, the beat officers will deal with persistent offenders. Cllr Gardner noted that this is also an issue of concern for the City Council Transport Committee. Anne Munro referred to World Health Organisation's "Age Friendly Cities" and Edinburgh's strategy to develop the City for all ages. A meeting will be held on 1st August at Gordon House in order to obtain the views of older people on the strategy. The pedestrian phase for older people is inadequate at crossings as a walking speed of 4ft/second is assumed. Puffin crossings are a more appropriate as the lights only change once the pedestrian have crossed over.

5.0. Matters Arising

5.1 Leith Gala: Vision for Leith Walk Consultation. The completed Gala boards were on display. The Secretary circulated a table showing the combined voting responses for the top 20 ideas compiled from the online survey, Leith Festival Gala consultation and the *Vision* event at the Drill Hall. Anne Munro noted local residents frustration and loss of faith at the on going *Vision* debate when basic repairs and maintenance were urgently required but not being implemented. Walter Dodds noted the immense damage resulting from the 1960s vision for the redevelopment of Leith. Basic cleanliness and good housekeeping were also key. Cllr Gardner stated that one should also recognise and work on the positive aspects of Leith Walk. The Secretary referred to Leith Walk Conservation Area and suggested the *Vision* should be about maintaining and enhancing the Victorian character of the Walk. Old photographs show a clean, well maintained and uncluttered street with attractive shop fronts. Cllr Chapman will seek to establish the amount and the sourcing for the funding of the Leith Walk reinstatement/improvements.

5.2 VAT on listed buildings. Secretary had written to the Chancellor's Office. It was queried if this was an issue that was really out with the scope of Community Councils and whether this matter had been voted on at the previous meeting.

6.0 Request for Traffic Lights for Easter Road/Dalmeny Street/St Clair St Junction

Walter Dodds referred to the accidents, injuries and deaths on Easter Road and at this junction in particular. Easter Road compares badly with Leith Walk with only three pedestrian crossings and these are remote from this junction. Many elderly residents live in this area and there is a need to cross Easter Road to catch buses. The situation has worsened since the tram works and there is also considerable East/West traffic. Cllr Gardner advised that he would pursue.

7.00 Open Forum

7.1 Part replacement of street lighting Some street lights have been replaced, but in the view of Keith Hales it would have been better to replace them all. Keith confirmed having an ongoing dialogue with Council officers. The City Council has advised that there has been a 29% replacement. Will do a check on each column. Proposed an independent audit be undertaken with CC members present.

7.2 Pilmeny Youth Club Holiday Play Scheme Two weeks in July (9th-16th) and an intergenerational event in August. Aimed at Primary and S1 and S2 pupils. May seek funding support. See programme on www.pilmeny.co.uk/images/Calendars

8.0 Officers' and Councillors' Reports

Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Planning etc.

Chair will attend rescheduled NP meeting.

Treasurer's report. Balance in the account stands at £616.46p. Payment to be made to Minute Secretary. The balance will stand as £566.16.

Secretary's report: No report

Planning Sub-Co. report.

Secretary advised that the Planning Committee had looked at the Barratt's pre-application proposals for the Brunswick Road site. Also the residential/commercial development for West Bowling Green Street/Anderson Place.

Cllr Gardner: The Gretna memorial service had been well attended.

Cllr Chapman: Will seek an update on the Water of Leith flood prevention measures.

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 14 May 2012 – AGM.

**(2012 dates: June 18, August 20, September 24,
October 15, November 19, December**