

Leith Central Community Council (LCCC),
Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 16th August 2010 in the Nelson Room
of McDonald Road Library.

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Pilmeny Development Project
Stan Eadie	LCCC and Convenor Transport sub-committee
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC and Convenor Planning sub-committee
Joan Corbett	LCCC
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC
Cllr Deirdre Brock	(SNP Leith Walk ward)
Malcolm Chisholm MSP	North Edinburgh (Lab)
Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents Association (PRA)
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton and Hillside
Peter Mellor	Resident
Lorraine Duckworth	Leith NP
Jim Scanlon	Chair of Leith Links CC

1. Introductions and Announcements.

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC and Pilmeny Development Project
Rob Hainsworth	LCCC
John Hein	LCCC
Roisin Farrington	LCCC
Juan Garcia	LCCC
Rob Hoon	Out of the Blue
Mark Lazarowicz	MP North Edinburgh

3 Approval of Minutes for 21st June 2010

Approved by Stan Eadie,
Seconded by Charlotte Encombe

4. Matters Arising

- a) Cllr Brock noted that under **Item 7** of the June minutes, with reference to the Education Committee considering Leith Walk Primary school as the venue for the Gaelic Education Centre, it should be added here that Bonnington Primary school is also still under consideration as a possible venue.
- b) **Item 9** Open Forum, with reference to the state of the janitor's house at Leith Walk Primary school, MSP Malcolm Chisholm reported that he suspected that CEC has powers that they are not using with regard to this property.

The Chair noted that this roof could be dangerous, with vegetation currently growing through the roof. He noted that part of the condition of sale was that the building should be kept in a proper repair.

The secretary will write to all councillors requesting their assistance in getting a solution to this problem.

5. Community Police Report

No report available,

Stan Eadie noted that PC Kevin Braidwood had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting in his area. He informed the group that an individual has been charged with theft of lead from Bonnington Primary School and a scrap dealer had been charged also.

6 Leith Gala Survey results.

Joan Corbett has collated all the results for a survey in which people were given 15 stickers and asked to use them to mark their answer to each question. She said that it was clear from the total answers given that this instruction was not always followed, with more responses given to some topics than others. .

Questions related to the following topics:

Policing, A clean, green Leith, Parking, Alcohol, Children, Housing and Leith Walk.

Policing: While some (21%) felt less safe than last year, more than half said that the situation hadn't changed. The most common response to what would make people feel safer was to 'maintain the current level of policing' (45%)

A Clean Green Leith: Just under half (45%) thought that local streets were dirtier, while 40% thought the level of litter visible was the same. Parks was also considered to have the same level of dirtiness by almost half the respondents (49%).

Parking:

Almost half of respondents said that parking in Leith was harder to find (49%), while more than half said that all new housing and hotels should have on-site parking (53%).

Alcohol:

Alcohol fuelled noise and disruption in Leith is seen to be at the same level by 72% of respondents, with almost equal support given to suggested solutions: These included: banning local cheap booze offers (35%); an area wide ban on street and park drinking (21%); no early-morning/late-night opening (21%).

Children:

Almost half of the respondents did not know whether provision for children and young people was better or worse in the area (47%). There was strong support for keeping Leith Water world open (44%) and for the council to protect funding for youth clubs (32%).

Housing:

Almost half of respondents said that recent new housing design is worse than previously (44%). The biggest concern was affordable family housing on every development (34%). It was also felt that there were too many houses on small sites (31%).

Leith Walk:

Shopping and eating out in Leith was considered to be better by a marginal 38%, with 30% saying the facilities were worse. More than half said that no empty shops and more colourful shop fronts would make the Walk more attractive (53%).

Charlotte noted that more people should have worked on preparing the questions and this would have lead to better results for the survey.

Joan said that this was presented as a fun survey and that it had been said that the questions were ones which had come up at CC meetings. They were not issues presented as those that CCs could necessarily do anything about.

Re Policing, There will be changes in police numbers visible across the city as departments 'staff to budget'. Departments such as the NHS, Fire Service and Police are talking about shared services.

Re Parking: Roland said that what had been learned from the survey does inform the work of the planning sub-committee – the public do want us to make representations about on-site parking for new builds.

Jim noted that some concern had been expressed at his CC that the new Tesco store could affect the availability of parking spaces in that area. Charlotte noted that Leith is the last area in the city to still not have parking restrictions. It was also noted that though zones can be introduced into an area, this does not guarantee residents a parking space.

Alcohol: A ban on cheap alcohol is strongly supported.

Environment: Leith has a large population with a lot of take-away food stores. But Cllr Brock noted that more investment had been made in 'barrow beats' to clean up litter. Members agreed that this had made a noticeable difference to the area.

Cllr Brock also noted that highest on the list of local people's complaints about any area were always dog fouling and litter.

On-the-spot fines for dog fouling were recommended. It was noted that no-one believes that they are going to be fined. There are only a handful of wardens across the city. Dog licences would help to create more accountability.

New-in-post David Sinclair, Local Environment Manager will be invited to present some ideas to the CC for possible solutions.

It was agreed that before the next Leith Gala event, a group would be formed to plan the questions.

7. Officers' and Councillors' Reports.

Cllr Brock: The skate park in Saughton is now open and is a huge success. Water World. It has been costly to maintain the appropriate guard presence, but a commitment had been secured that Water World would not close until the Royal Commonwealth Pool (RCP) has opened. With its greater flexibility, the RCP will cope with a lot more business when it is opened next year.

Re shop fronts: It is suggested that a CC meeting be arranged with Business Development Manager for the City Centre and Leith Walk Graham Russel to take this issue forward.

Cllr Brock noted that major studies have highlighted the huge benefits that Edinburgh Festival brings to the city, the financial equivalent of hosting a Commonwealth Games every year. A recent survey revealed that 76% of the residents polled recognised the benefit that this brings to the city.

The Budget is a constant topic of conversation. Necessary cuts to come will mean that there will be many challenges and the situation will be difficult as distinctions are made between things which are essential and non-essential. A figure of £90m must be saved over the next three years. If the NHS is to be ring-fenced, then £18m--£35m will have to

be cut elsewhere. Meetings offering more information will be held on 5th October at 7pm at Drylaw Church and on the 6th October for Leith 7pm in the City Chambers. Information can also be requested at councilbudget@edinburgh.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Development (NP) officer Loraine Duckworth:

An event planned for Saturday 2nd October, from 10am until 1pm, and called an 'Away Day' will enable members of the three CCs to meet and discuss their role as Councillors within the community.

The next public meeting will take place on 22nd September.

Cllr Louise Lang will take over as NP convenor in October.

Leith NP is moving to the City Centre on 4th October. The reason is that North Edinburgh was working with three NPs, while City Centre had only one.

Leith Decides is the pilot Participatory Budgeting project currently being developed. A steering group, which includes Stan Eadie and Jenny from Leith Central is working towards the event which will be held on 27th November. Groups will present their bids for up to £1,000. Applications will need to be in by 27th September.

Chair's report:

The Fairer Scotland Fund will cease by the end of March. The money will be allocated centrally by the various departments. The chair has requested that a letter be sent to the Policy and Strategy Committee requiring that information be given about the change.

The chair regards this move as a retrograde step. This letter has not been sent to date and the Chair and Secretary will be attending the next business meeting on 25th August at Out of the Blue, where the matter will be raised.

Treasurer's report: No report. Apologies from the treasurer.

Secretary's report:

The secretary requested agreement to a subscription to Planning Aid Consultation and £15 also due to the ASCC for membership.

A report from the ASCC regional meeting held in Livingstone highlighted the negative nature of the event. There was a strong message given from the floor that the governance of the Association needs review. No minutes were presented from the last meeting, none appeared to be being taken for this meeting. The association has potential but needs to be more accountable to its members.

Transport:

A BBC Scotland radio programme carried an interview with the chief Executive who stated that the current plan is that the tram route will cease at York Place, with no further work being done for four to six years. A council meeting to be held on 16th September will consider the issue and a full report will be released following that meeting.

Planning:

The last meeting was held on 31st May. The next will be held on 23rd August.

Re update on current applications:

130 McDonald Road – this is a redesign, taking neighbour and CC comments into consideration.

50 Pilrig St – A redesign – it is now stone fronted, which is good, but there is still poor amenity (light and sunlight) to basement flats. A new cycle rack to be erected outside the window will reduce this further.

177-185 Easter Road. Proposal to change unused shops into one bedroom flats. The Planning committee objected as this is contrary to the local plan and suggested alternative use as a small business unit. Other objections were that the exterior and interior design is poor. Eight new housing units would increase pressure on parking. Objections were considered 'material'

There is a pre-application consultation on a mobile phone mast at Redbraes.

A community forum event, Community Engagement on Planning Proposals, will be attended by Annette as LCCC rep, Thursday 19th August.

7 Matters Arising. Community Council communications. Appointment of Officer.

A job description will be prepared and circulated to all members.

9. Open Forum

Mark Lazarowicz MP is heading a conference on Energy on September 11th at St Giles Church in Shandwick Place from 10m to 1.45pm. Members are encouraged to attend.

Greener Leith (GL) is organising a clean-up for the next three months. They will be held on:

25th September at Leith Links from 11-1pm

6th November at Pilrig Park

9th October at Victoria Park.

GL requested some financial support for the refreshments provided for those who attend. The chair preferred that any CC contribution should be used for promoting the community engagement nature of the activity. £100 CC contribution was agreed.

Stan Eadie requested that a speaker from the group which supports pedestrian access and safety, Living Streets, be invited as a speaker to the next meeting. Agreed.

Jim Scanlon from Leith Links reported that the Mela was a great success, being held this year on the Links. Litter pick-up was very well organised, with bins being emptied regularly throughout the day.

Ann Stark of Friends of Calton and Hillside requested that more attention be given to the needs of Easter Road. Parts of the general area are very neglected with pavements needing attention and litter being very bad in some places. Cllr Brock noted that the London Road end of Easter Road looks better kept than the further end.

10. Date of next meeting

Monday 13th September 2010