

Spurtle



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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

LOGIE GREEN ROAD PLAN ... LIDL LICKS ITS LIPS

Mixed reactions have greeted revised proposals for the development at 11 Logie Green Road (Ref. 13/01990/PAN). Chief among local residents' worries is possible disruption around a new Lidl supermarket.

Jones Lang LaSalle (JSL) – agents for the developer Watkins Jones Group – unveiled the plans in recent pre-application consultations with the public and New Town and Broughton Community Council (see *Extras*, 1.9.13).

Owing to another firm's errors in the original consented drawings, a variation is now sought to reduce the residential component by 1 storey. Twenty-four flats will still be delivered but in a different combination of 1–2 bedroom units with 48 car park spaces divided between residents and retailer.

About two-thirds of the 16 people consulted, says JSL, are in favour. Controversially, though, the proposal includes an 860m² supermarket which Lidl will occupy if planning permission is granted.

JSL say the store would operate from 8am–10pm, 7 days a week and be limited to one delivery out and one in per day (including refuse) by non-articulated lorries via a new Logie Green Road/Beaverbank Place loop.

They say Lidl plans a 'chimney-pot' store here, serving very local customers rather than visitors from further afield. It would complement not compete with existing shops nearby.

Observers – particularly those with experience of Tesco's behaviour in the area – say:

- More car users will certainly access such a store, if necessary using adjacent streets and car parks. At peak times, 833 vehicles per hour already use Broughton Rd.

- No evidence was offered to support the viability of proposed operating and delivery hours. In any case, these might change in future – or be breached, as allegedly at Tesco – bringing further disruption.

- The size of delivery lorries will be hard to police.

- Lidl's preference for shuttered lifts opening onto Logie Green Road will create noise and attract trouble.

- Lidl's claim to complement existing local retailers is nonsense. It is locked in a fierce struggle with other supermarkets.

A full planning application was scheduled for 22 August.



TESCO NOT THINKING STRAIGHT



Following the Broughton Rd Tesco's recent upgrade, regular cyclist customers are baffled as to why the awful and inadequate cycle parking has not been upgraded along with everything else, *writes Tim Smith*.

The triangular bike racks give poor support, are too few and too close together. The three ridiculous end-on racks are virtually unusable (Issue 206), as was pointed out to Tesco management immediately they were installed – though to no effect.

Meanwhile, the unnecessary shelter (bikes are waterproof, you know) has been renewed, although with scarcely a true



Craig Hill (pictured here in stirring pose) sported traditional garb for his 'Tartan About!' show during last month's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Admirers in the public prints lapped up the braw son of Broughton's 'wicked humour', 'great dancing' and 'flamboyance'.

DIFFERING VIEWS ON VIEW

New Town & Broughton Community Council (NTBCC) last month backed plans to convert 154 McDonald Road into flats, whilst Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) opposed them (*Breaking news*, 20.8.13).

NTBCC thinks child safety concerns about proximity to (and overlooking of) Broughton Primary School can be addressed by sound management. LCCC doesn't, and shares many local parents' doubts over selling off public property when the school next door is pushed for space. Both are concerned that city Planners did not designate the proposal as a Major Development.

A decision – by the Council on a development promising short-term profit for the Council – is expected later this month.



vertical to be seen.

In related developments: (1) neighbours complained to the Council about noisy 1am replacement of the store totem pole; (2) neighbours complained again, this time about store alarms repeatedly blaring at 3am during refurbishments; (c) the large 'Hello' sign beside the entry slip-road was repositioned on 13 August. following complaints about blocked access and sightlines.

Briefly



Real Foods celebrates 50 years in business on 7 Sept by distributing free **healthy snacks and fresh fruit** to local workplaces. The shop – on Broughton St since 1975 – plans to make the date an **annual Real Foods Day** event, emphasising the importance of looking after people, animals and the planet, and the value of **real, sustainable, traceable food**.

The next meeting of the **Broughton History Society** will be at 7pm on 7 Sept in Drummond CHS. Ian Rintoul will unspool on **'Edinburgh Cinemas Remembered'**. Membership details and curriculum for 2013–14: [<http://goo.gl/Kf7onV>].

An Edinburgh teenager bought her **£1m-winning Lottery ticket** from the Broughton St **Lifestyle Express** store late in July. The lucky 17-year old plans to invest her windfall on a house, holiday, and customised white Range Rover with pink interior.

May's **Christian Aid book sale** at St Andrew's & St George's church raised a remarkable £95,237 for good causes in **Bolivia, Kenya and Malawi**.

If yer claes hae fairly faain sindry efter a' that **playin da kyittums** over da Festival, an if yer bedsheets lie at doon-drappin forby, stop eatin da bread o idlesat an **mak wye for Trigg**: the new wesh an facin-iron service at 152 Dundas St. **Trigg**, in **Shetlandic**, means tae mak douce and perjink.

TG Tip: 'Now the days are getting shorter, **walk or bike to work** on set days – perhaps start with 3 days a week. Remember to schedule them into your diary and **organise the gear you need** the night before. Once you get in the habit it's easy. It can be very liberating knowing you're getting exercise (and perhaps even saving time) as you commute.' **More fitness on Twitter @tracygriffen**

This summer the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Centre for Wellbeing** (9 Howe St) was awarded a Llitha Award from BiCon 2013 (<http://goo.gl/6vVeIE>) for ensuring the B in 'LGBT' is fully **visible, included and embraced** in its work. 'Llitha' apparently means the warmth a community feels when gathered around a fire, although nobody seems to know in which language. **Shetlandic perhaps**.

Bienvenida Bodega, the new Mexican restaurant at 62 Elm Row. *Auf Wiedersehen, Frankfurter Eck*.

Who gains from new Shrubhill gap-site scheme?

Dunmore Housing Association and Port of Leith are planning 341 mid-market rental homes for the Shrubhill gap-site, perhaps by 2019.

Greener Leith reported the proposal on 24 August, claiming the pair seek a £38m low-interest loan from the Council in order to take over the site from moribund Frasers Hamilton (Shrubhill) Ltd.

Council officers are understood to look favourably on the plan, although sceptics already have misgivings. There are particular doubts about how many flats would remain in housing association control a few years down the line.

'In many senses,' writes Ally Tibbitt, 'this plan might be regarded more like a complex way to subsidise the private sector construction industry and the jobs that it supports – rather than a long-term means of securing affordable homes in the heart of the city.'

For more details, visit: [<http://greenerleith.org.uk/>]. For background, see *Breaking news* (9.4.13).

Nom de blooms



Alan and Colin's garden at Nom de Plume is a year-round festival in itself, and is now reaching its dizzying zenith with tomatoes and nasturtiums entwining up the fine metal arch. Surely this is one of the most joyous street gardens in all Edinburgh.

Doors Open, backs straight



Edinburgh Doors Open Days this year are on 28 and 29 September. One local venue is the Victorian Schoolroom at Leith Walk Primary on Brunswick Street where – says trustee Steve Rooney – visitors will be able to take part in a short Geology lesson following this year's theme of 'Natural Edinburgh' (10am–6pm). Well-behaved ones may then carefully and quietly view the collection of Victorian everyday household items and children's toys. No running. More information at [<http://goo.gl/Dix7Dx>].

Community council elections – it could be you

Edinburgh community council elections are scheduled for 24 October, and will take place if there are more nominations than places. This rarely occurs, so do not be deterred ... most people are appointed without any difficulty.

The New Town & Broughton CC is not unusual in being currently below strength, with only 10 of its 16 places filled. Ian Mowat, Chair since 2006, urges community-minded locals to get involved. 'The area is a fascinating one to represent,' he explains, 'and it's vital the residents' voices are articulated'.

Recent work has involved studying planning applications from McDonald Road to Charlotte Square, and trying to ameliorate tramwork diversions. Something of a triumph is described in this issue on page 3. Coming up soon for consideration will be the Council's City Centre Vision for Princes Street and George Street, as well as ever-changing Environment and Licensing developments.

So what does a community councillor need? 'Computer skills and knowledge of architecture and planning would be especially welcome,' says Mowat, 'but the only qualification (besides being resident in the area and on the electoral register) is a willingness to get stuck in on behalf of the community. It's not party political either, though it's a great way for anyone with an interest in local politics to get involved.' The formal commitment is simply to attend most monthly meetings.

More information is available from Mowat on [mowats@blueyonder.co.uk] and the notice board next to Crombie's on Broughton Street.

Meanwhile, Leith Central Community Council – representing one of the largest constituencies in the city – also seeks new members for the next 5 years. For more information email [contactleithcentral@gmail.com].

The nomination period for all community councils is 2–23 September. Forms can be downloaded from [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils].

A polite word in your wallet

As subscriptions – which run from October to October – fall due this month, we'd like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the *Broughton Spurtle* over the last 12 months.

A *Spurtle* subscription (£15 or whatever you can afford; £21 for 2nd-class postal delivery) secures readers prompt delivery of the paper within a day or so of publication.

The sum gathered limits the number of adverts needed, lets volunteers purchase production supplies in advance (before prices rise) and set some money aside against any temporary shortfalls. This year we've put up the basic price (by £3) for the first time in over 8 years.

Subscriptions also help glue together a rump of *Spurtle* enthusiasts to whom we can confidently turn for news, advice and support when needed.

If you'd like to help in this way, please send your cheque (made out to *Spurtle*) to: *Spurtle*, c/o Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1 3RJ. Remember to include the name and postal/email address to which copies should be sent. Thanks again. For electronic transfers, see the *About us* page online.

New phone app on the brink

LOCAL! EDGE

Spurtle and friends at neighbouring Greener Leith launched our new phone app – Local Edge – to nearby businesses earlier in the summer. Now that the Festival's over, we're promoting it to readers. It's FREE, easy to use, and can earn you great offers from participating independent shops and services. Look out online for further details soon.

Second home for Holmes



The walls of Mather's bar on Broughton Street have recently been redecorated with thousands of slightly enlarged images of the world's first postage stamp – the famous Penny Black (1840).

Those in the upper lounge feature the later Penny Reds (1841) and Oranges (1854). There is also a 'faux' library of finely bound books.

Happily the brass fixtures and chandelier are retained.

The overall effect is mellow and soothing, and much to Sherlock Holmes's taste when he descends from his Picardy Place plinth at dead of night. *JRM*

Knight welcomes dawn of Council Planning 'Concordat'

The NTBCC is more than pleased, indeed gratified, to see the Beaverhall Road development by Springfield Properties now well underway, writes former architect and Planning Convener John Knight.

Since the new Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 became law, NTBCC has dealt with some 12 pre-application consultations (PACs), but this is one of only a handful to start construction. Of all the PAC projects, this particular scheme caused us the most consternation and effort as the developer – having consulted NTBCC – then made significant changes that we were unaware of until the full application itself was submitted.

We had earlier endeavoured to ensure that the existing tenement (18 Beaverhall Road) was given a fighting chance in the development and was not just hemmed in and hidden by new buildings. Although the original plans acknowledged this up to a point, the application drawings when submitted showed that the buildings on either side had been increased in height.

I had to resort to the drawing board myself to show how the tenement had been 'pushed down' in the overall streetscape. Fortunately, the scheme was revised, as was the late change to the road layout (which we considered made it a potentially dangerous racetrack).

Now, as a result of this case and no doubt other PACs across the city where community councils were sidelined following consultation, the City Council has produced a highly commendable 'Concordat' which clearly sets out the roles of the developer, the community council and itself. This was adopted by the Development Management Sub-committee last month, and gives an opportunity for further limited consultation should developers make significant late changes to their plans.

Beaverhall Road has indeed been a test case, and is timely proof that determined community councils can make a difference. For the most recent Spurtle coverage, see (Breaking news, 6.3.13).



Briefly



St George's Cross bunting outside a Leith Walk business stirred **anti-English threats and abuse** on 14 Aug. Not what Leith Business Association had hoped for its flag festival celebrating **cultural diversity**. Locals and politicians responded with an **impromptu parade** (*Breaking news*, 20.8.13).

Police sources say recent crackdowns on city saunas – of which 3 exist nearby – are aimed at **money laundering, people trafficking and other illegal activities**. 'Other kinds of business' will come under the same spotlight soon. In Aug, **City Centre's Cllr Rankin** insisted there was no change of policy to Edinburgh's **pragmatic tolerance of 'safely run' licensed brothels**, a position confirmed later by Council leader Cllr Andrew Burns.

Pomegranate Restaurant will appeal a Planning Dept decision to refuse and enforce its application for (in our view **trivial**) retrospective changes to its B-listed Antigua/Union St frontages. See *Breaking news* (14.8.13).

Permission has been refused to change the use of a garage to a **'studio dwelling'** on Scotland St Lane East (*Breaking news*, 21.8.13). Over 47 people objected in **no uncertain terms**.

Moleta Munro Ltd – purveyors of snazzy furniture, lighting and top-of-the-range domestic gewgaws – are understood to be imminent at **43–6 London St**.

A new **Pilrig Conservation Area** was approved by the Council last month and comes into effect next month. **Leith Central Community Council's Annette O'Carroll** was instrumental in the development. See *Breaking news* (9.8.13).

£22,092 in community grants of up to £1K will be awarded in the all-perfectly-transparent-&-above-board **Leith Decides** public acclamation event on 15 Feb 2014 in New Kirkgate. Applications by 8 Nov. **Broughton projects** based north and east of E. London St are eligible. **Invite along 200 impartial best friends**. See [http://goo.gl/kcfApy].

A **Hanover St bar** seeks CEC consent to vary the terms of its licence. It wants to open at 11am on Suns and allow access for accompanied **children until 8pm**. There is no truth in the rumour that it will be renamed the **Jekyll and Hyde and Seek**.

Moreover ...

Image: Eileen Dickie



Peter Liversidge's **'HELLO' flags** flew across the city last month – including **Hopetoun Crescent Garden** – as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival. The message was a **'collective welcome'** to visitors, and cheaper to print than **'FOR PETE'S SAKE DON'T FEED THE RUDDY GULLS'**.

Tesco PLC prides itself on supporting local communities. Try telling that to **Edina Lock & Key, Bodrum Express and the Canonmills Launderette**, just a few of the local businesses affected by new lines/franchises at the Broughton Rd store.

Comic activist **Mark Thomas** launched an **Assess the Assessors** campaign on **York Place** last month to gather evidence of **Atos Healthcare's alleged poor practice** in determining sick and disabled people's **fitness to work**. A petition and 'cumulative report' will be delivered to Parliament in Dec (*Breaking news*, 21.8.13).

York Place – closed since mid-July – is due to reopen on 30 Sept at 11.59pm. So, too, are the junctions of **Dundas St** with Heriot Row, Queen St Gardens East and Abercromby Place; and **Howe St** with Heriot Row and Queen St Gardens West. Tramwork-related parking arrangements on **Albany St** are due to end about a week earlier.

Indie & Chic – the Broughton St ladies' lingerie specialist – is slipping off to **somewhere warmer (Portugal)** within weeks. The shop will retain its **website presence** for those who prefer their knickers online.

Rebuilding of Botanic Cottage in the grounds of the RGBE Demonstration Garden was consented on 28 Aug. Despite regretting the structure could not have remained on **Leith Walk**, **Cllr Deidre Brock** welcomed its refurbishment and 'increased hands-on opportunities for schools and community garden groups' (*Breaking news*, 28.3.13; Issue 216).

Broughton High School's parent council AGM is at **7pm on Wed 25 Sep**. An earlier social event from 6pm will help parents of S1s **get to know each other**. More info: [goo.gl/SdHII4].

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Saturday surgeries:
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Every Monday 5pm: Constituency Office
2nd Monday of the month:
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1pm-2pm Stockbridge Library
NB. No Surgeries on Public Holidays.

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Alison Johnstone MSP for Lothian Region



On the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month during term time I hold a surgery for Lothian residents at the Scottish Parliament between 11am and 1pm.

Please call to book a surgery appointment or to arrange another time and venue that is convenient for you.

Contact me on 0131 348 6421
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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm **Stockbridge Library**,
no appointment necessary;
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other surgeries throughout the
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New Town/Broughton Community Council

The Community Council
represents the views
of local residents to
Edinburgh City Council

Next Meeting:

Monday 2 Sep.
at 7.30pm

Broughton St Mary's Parish
Church, Bellevue Crescent
secretary@ntbcc.org.uk

AMDECORATING

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