

Leith Central Community Council (LCCC),
Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 17th January 2011 in the Nelson
Room of McDonald Road Library.

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
John Hein	Vice-chair LCCC
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Joan Corbett	Website LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Pilmeny Development Project
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC and Convenor Planning sub-committee
Jim Scanlon	Chairman Leith Links CC
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton and Hillside
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC
Malcolm Chisholm MSP	North Edinburgh (Lab)
Cllr Louise Lang	(Lib Dems)
Sgt John Brock	Lothian and Borders Police, Safer Neighbourhood Team.
Julian Siann	LCCC and Redbraes Community Garden
Alistair Tibbet	Greener Leith
Peter Mellors	Resident
Mark Armstrong	Resident
Sarah Marsh	Resident

1. Introductions and Announcements.

The Chair welcomed local resident Sarah Marsh to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents Association (PRA)
Dominic Moran	LCCC
Stan Eadie	LCCC
Juan Garcia	LCCC
Lorraine Duckworth	Leith NP Development officer
Mark Lazarowicz	MP North Edinburgh
Geraldine Debard	Friends of Montgomery St Park
Nick Gardiner	Resident

3. Approval of Minutes for Monday 13th December 2010

Minutes Approved by Annette O'Carroll
Seconded by Roland Reid.

Item 6: Moved up as Item 4. Public entertainment Licence Application , 81 Easter Road for Glamassage

Communications received from individuals and a local group about this application highlights two concerns:

1. The application does not indicate what kind of events will take place on the premises.
2. Objectors are made known to the applicant.

As a result CC representation on the issue is important. Material grounds for an objection are that there are other establishments of a similar nature already in the area. Sgt Brock noted that police have spoken to the proprietor and pressed for information on the purpose of the establishment. MSP Malcolm Chisholm said that there are strong arguments against this application. LCCC secretary has written to the Licensing Board expressing the concerns reiterated at the meeting. .

Cllr Louise Lang raised two points:

1. The initial applications give no real indication of the purpose of the business. Inquirers may telephone for more details. Opening hours can provide some indication of the nature of the business.
2. The Cllr will make enquiries about whether it is possible for objections to be lodged regarding applications without the individuals/group being identified. She will come back to the CC with this information.

5. Community Police Officer's Report

Sergeant John Brock (Safer Neighbourhood Team. As noted in last LCCC minutes, Sgt Brock was able to source an up-to-date list of local officers, their ward coverage and their contact details. List now available from LCCC secretary. List to be posted on LCCC website.

There has been an increase in the theft of lead from local buildings. The price for lead has increased three-fold since 2008. Difficult to solve these crimes after they have occurred so the police welcome any information from the public about these thefts. There has been 'robust' policing of local yards and two people have been charged.

Three local PCS have been nominated for joint LBP/Evening News awards as Community Police Officer of the Year,. PCs John Pennycook, David Nelson and Mark Muir.

Objectives set to deal with complaints about youth disturbance in local parks (Pilrig, Dalmeny) and Leith Walk were delayed by the bad weather, but work is being done now to address this issue, as well as trade waste disposal in Leith Walk.

Planning sub-committee convenor requested support in dealing with the unsafe Dryden Street entry to Shrub Place. A padlock is needed. BL Developments have been alerted several times with no response to date. A broken drainpipe is also surging water onto the site. PS Brock will liaise with beat officer PC Daley and report back at the next meeting.

6. Leith Walk Regeneration Project (grant of £950 won from Leith Decides)

Charlotte is to lead the Leith Regeneration Project proposed event, with Ann Stark as her deputy. Volunteers are requested for a steering group to take the consultation programme

and exhibition forward. John Hein, Julian Siann, Roland Reid, Anne Munro and Alistair Tibbett volunteered. The first meeting of the project steering group will be on Monday 24th January (*Rescheduled to 3.30pm, 27 January*). Vikki Hilton of Hilton Associates has indicated an interest in including the project as a community placement for her Edinburgh University Participatory Appraisal Course. There would be no cost to the project for this work, which would greatly help the consultation work of the project. The next Appraisal Course is the 11th-15th April, which will fit within the time frame and cut-off date for project completion of 31st May. The Course will go ahead if enough trainees register for the course.

Leith Walk Regeneration Project plans to involve Leith Business Association in the consultation process.

Cost of training on a Hilton Associate training course for community consultation is £375. Discussion ensued on sending one individual on this course. No decision made.

7. Matter Arising

Leith Biomass Plant. Leith Links CC Chair Jim Scanlon reported on a meeting attended at Leith Harbour and Newhaven CC (LH&NCC), at which Forth Energy made a further presentation about the Biomass Plant application going in to the Scottish Government on 25th January. This was a well-attended meeting. Concerns were expressed by residents of Rennie's Isle and Platinum Point. Jim pointed out that all of the six million green tonnes of material required to fuel the plant would have to be imported as all Scottish Forestry supplies already have a market. City of Edinburgh council has urged Forth Energy to provide more realistic pictorial evidence, with correct proportions and size of the plant indicated.

LHNCC is opposed to the application. MSP Malcolm Chisholm praised the Greener Leith website for the quality of research about the proposed plant and the general information available about subsidy. He said that little general information is available from the Scottish Government. He said that all renewable energy wins financial support, so though Forth Energy would fund the building of the plant, heavy subsidy would be provided for its operation. Subsidies are paid by taxpayers. Concerns were expressed that the plant could in time become a general waste incinerator. Malcolm Chisholm noted that the decision will rest with Scottish Ministers. Alistair Tibbett of Greener Leith said that there are 'huge gaps' in the ecological side of the study, with many questions unanswered.

The secretary sought approval from members to register a LCCC **request for a moratorium** on the matter now. Seconded by Charlotte. The secretary provided the following information about the relevance and importance of requesting a moratorium.

“The Scottish Government has just announced that there will be a review of electricity generation only biomass plants in respect of the availability of subsidy through ROC, (Renewable Obligation Certificates). I refer you to this extract from the Scottish Government website report below:

'The Scottish Government would prefer to see biomass deployed in heat-only or combined heat and power schemes, off gas-grid, at a scale appropriate to make best use of both the available heat, and of local supply. We believe that by grandfathering biomass we will ensure investor confidence in the continued development of appropriately scaled Combined Heat and Power plants in Scotland. We believe there is a need to review the current blend of incentives for biomass for heat and power and will do so in 2011. We will develop the scope of the review through continued engagement with stakeholders, including the UK Government, but options for discussion in the proposed review will include:

'Whether to make large scale biomass for electricity plants ineligible for ROC support; Whether there should be a threshold set for electricity only biomass plants to ensure that relatively small scale plants did remain eligible for support; and what that threshold should be

'We recognise that any realignment of support for biomass in Scotland needs to be considered within the wider UK framework, and thus we will engage closely with the UK Government to put forward the case to focus on use for heat and CHP.'

The secretary continued: "Forth Ports will argue that their scheme is for a combined power and heat. However, as indicated in their presentation to us, they have no firm proposals or contractual agreement for the use of the hot water that will be generated by the plant. It has been indicated to us that Forth Ports will be looking to the City Council to pay for the infrastructure costs associated with laying insulated heating pipework to the new housing developments. This will be very costly. Even if private housing developers were currently planning to build on the Waterfront I am not convinced that they would want to install a community heating system to their developments that is reliant on a plant that Forth Ports state has a life of only 20 years.

"The heating commitment is so vague and also reliant on third parties that we believe the Government should view this as a power generation only plant. It is more than likely that the waste heat will be used to warm the Forth Estuary! Given this situation, and that the biomass plant is only economic with the government subsidy by way of ROC it would be better to hold consideration of this application i.e. have a moratorium until the Government make a decision on the eligibility of large scale electricity only plants for ROC support.

The Chair said a formal response from LCCC regarding the Biomass plant proposal would be submitted after the next CC meeting in February.

Boundary Square

Report postponed until February meeting when Eddie Dunlop from POLHA will provide an update.

ASCC

Report from the Chair on resignation of ASCC Edinburgh Representative Norman Bonney. The Chair will attend a Common Ground Meeting set up by ASCC to be held in Glasgow on 26th March.

Pilmenny Development Project: Thanks from Project manager Anne Munro for the £100 donated to PDP for newsletter printing costs and apologies that youths were not present in person to make their request. This due to the bad weather. Brief news provided of current work, including the Leith Intergenerational Project

7. Officer's and Councillor's Reports

Chair's Report: Minutes circulated from the last Housing and Built Environment (H&BE) meeting held on 18th November, 2010. Decisions included agreement by H&BE to give general support to proceed with the consultation on the Shore project. Projects approved on Housing Revenue Accounts Land include Hamburg Place: removing a binstore, replacing fencing near to the bus stop that collects litter and improving the garden areas; Great Michael Rise: The Garden Association has requested an orchard and bulb planting; Elliot Street: Clearance of the garden space agreed and temporary fencing. Residents will be consulted about the future use of the space; Inchkeith Court: The Residents' Association has requested allotments and improvements to the spaces around their building. Next meeting scheduled for 20th January. . .

Secretary's Report:

LCCC member Stan Eadie has been unable to attend meetings recently for health reasons. The secretary has urged him to reconsider resigning as a Councillor for the time being.

A finalised Open Space Strategy Document is now available.

A new body, the Granton Development Trust may be established to development projects in the Granton area. An exploratory meeting is to be held at 6pm at The Lighthouse, Granton from 6-8pm on Thursday 27th January. Approval sought from members to book a stall at 2011 Leith Gala. Approved. Consultation is urged on the survey questions to be prepared by a small group in good time before the event.

Leith Links CC will be supporting an information stall in the Kirkgate informing the public about the proposed Biomass plant on two forthcoming Saturdays.

Treasurer's Report: Balance sits at £1,492 with no cheques outstanding.

Planning sub-committee (psc)

Convenor Annette O'Carroll reported that there was no news on any of the 2010 Applications. The psc was concerned at the proposal (Householder Permitted Development Rights) that the planning system should be simplified by relaxing permitted development rights for all dwellinghouses except those in conservation areas or that are listed. It was felt that the effects on pre-1914 houses and tenemented streets would be particularly unfortunate. The convenor would respond on behalf of psc with comments before the 14th January deadline.

Committee approved the suggestion that Ann Stark represent LCCC at the Planning Aid Conference on Friday 25th February. The next meeting of psc will be held on 7th February at 4pm in Out of The Blue.

Cllr Lang: Feedback is needed about roads that were not cleared within a suitable time frame during the recent very severe weather. Members noted that London Road and

Pilrig Road were two examples. Cllr Lang asked if a list could be compiled and submitted to her.

9.. Open Forum

Julian Siann noted with regret that the hut that is used in Redbraes Park for a local café is threatened with closure as the rent has been tripled and further lease granted for one year only. This valuable meeting point for local residents is much valued. Cllr Lang to investigate this and report back to the CC.

Alistair Tibbett has been appointed to STV as a community blogger and urges members to submit local stories. The channel hopes to build up a list of reliable correspondents. No news is too small. Social media surgeries are to be held in McDonald Road library to support further use of sites like Twitter and Facebook. Further details can be found on Edinburghbuzz.net.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm

10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 21st February, 2011.