

Minutes (Draft) for Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) Meeting,
Monday 15th March 2010, 7.30pm
at McDonald Road Library

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Appointed LCCC (PDP)
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Stan Eadie	LCCC (Convenor Planning)
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC (Convenor Planning)
Lorraine Duckworth	CEC Services for Communities
Caroline Budge	Scottish Storytelling Centre
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Juan Garcia	LCCC
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC and Greener Leith
Joan Corbett	LCCC
Rob Hainsworth	LCCC
Ross McEwan	Art in Architecture/Jump
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton and Hillside
Jim Scanlon	Chair Leith Links CC
PC Margo Darling	Lothian and Borders Police
PC Mark Muir	Lothian and Borders Police
PC Alison Wylie	Lothian and Borders Police
Roisin Farrington	Resident
Peter Mellor	Resident
Mark Armstrong	Resident)

2. Introductions and Announcements.

Chairman extended welcome to:

- Caroline Budge of Scottish Storytelling Centre
- Craig Hamilton and Davie Hathaway, Licensing Standards Officers, Services for Communities
- Students from Herriot Watt University Mastering in Urban Redesign

Apologies for Absence

John Hein	LCCC (Vice-chair)
Dominic Moran	LCCC
Martin Black	CEC, Community Education

4. Minutes for meeting of February 15th, 2010

Approved: Stan Eadie

Seconded: Roland Reid

4. Presentation: Life Stories

Caroline Budge of Scottish Storytelling Centre told LCCC that Life Stories is a group of professional storytellers who specialise in storytelling and reminiscence with older people in hospitals and nursing homes, lunch clubs and church groups. Having received some funding from Leith Neighbourhood Partnership, a local programme of storytelling events begun in February will run through to June.

- Life Stories will present storytellers Millie Gray and Liz Wilson at South Leith Parish Church, 6 Henderson Street, Leith on Friday 16th April from 2-3.30. Stories and songs from Scotland past and present. Admission free (by donation).
- Two other events will run at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal Mile, on Friday 12th March 2-3.30 and Saturday 24th April, 10am to 1pm.

5. Licensing

Craig Hamilton and Davie Hathaway of CEC talked about the new Licensing Act and their roles as enforcement officers.

Following the Licensing Scotland Act of 2005, enforcement officers are keen to establish a good relationship with local communities. Part of their remit is better health promotion with more responsible drinking habits. Irresponsible alcohol promotion is a thing of the past. Partnership working for enforcement officers includes working with Community Safety officers, the Fire Brigade and the Police to prevent crime and disorder. Working to promote a new culture towards alcohol consumption in Scotland. The officer urged members to contact them if concerns are held about local issues. Would welcome feedback about the effects of alcohol in the community.

Lorraine Duckworth committed to forwarding the results of a recent NP Public Meeting which focused on the public's experience of alcohol and its effects on the Leith community. Research and workshops have been conducted by young people in the area, a DVD has been made and shown publicly, and recommendations have been collated about how to provide more education about the damaging effects of excessive drinking on families and young people in the area.

The process of responding to objections regarding renewals has been improved, the backlog has been diminished and compliance issues can now be raised at any time.

6. Community Police Officer's Report

Community beat officer PC Mark Muir has been relocated to the Harbour beat and CBO PC Chris Johnstone will be the Leith Central (NW 24) beat officer in his place.

Report for NW 24:

During February 2010 the police received a total of 211 calls, which lead to 65 crime reports. There were eight attempted house-breakings across the area. One first floor flat was entered via a drainpipe. The rest were entered by either forcing a rear facing window or the front door of a flat. Vehicle crime was down with only three reports of break-ins in Sloan Street, Halmyre St and Lochend Road.

Statistics are available regarding accidents in the area on the Lothian and Borders Police website or from the Forces Information Unit.

The CCTV cameras currently being used at The Fort have been ear-marked for elsewhere, so will not be available for possible installation in Easter Road as suggested by one resident.

Scaffolding outside properties does provide easy access for thieves. Residents are urged to secure windows well.

A resident noted with alarm that a crossbow was on sale in a local business. Current legislation does not prevent the sale of a crossbow, although carrying or using a firearm is against the law.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Forth Energy's Presentation of Combined Heat and Power plant.

LCCC's Planning sub-committee has prepared a response to the Scoping Report raising questions about issues of "high significance". These include:

Landscape and Visual Impact

"How can Forth Energy justify building a biomass plant of this size close to the historic centre of Leith and in the middle of the planned Leith Docks community of 16,000 households?"

Air Quality and Climate

Exhaust from the plant is likely to create fog which could cause a "blanket of cloud" in the Leith Harbour area and beyond. Streaking and staining of the downwind high blocks at Platinum Point are a distinct possibility. Will the height of the chimney be adequate to prevent this?

Can you provide an estimate of the increase in traffic related emissions – both for transportation of biomass to the plant and ash away from the plant?

Noise and Vibration

Very little is said about the noise nuisance. Is there likely to be a 24/7 conveyor system? (See LCCC website for full list of the response)

An NP public consultation meeting has been postponed until after an Environmental Impact Statement has been completed. The consultation will be discussed at the next NP business meeting.

7.2 CC promotion and training. Leith Gala Newsletter

Members agreed to the production of 6,000 (5,000 for delivery to households, 1,000 for Leith Gala day) copies of an eight-page, all colour, A5 newsletter, to be produced in conjunction with Leith Links and Leith Harbour and Newhaven. Printing costs of £500 to be done by Edinburgh Print and Design will be met by a successful bid for a Community Engagement Grant, awarded by Leith NP. Each CC will contribute £100 towards the production fee of £300. Former newsletter account will contribute £130 of the £180 distribution fee.

7.3 Parking problems for disabled vehicles at Trafalgar Street/Lane. No new information.

7.4. Former Janitor's House. No further information.

7.5. Post Office proposed relocation. Many elderly finding it difficult to receive packages.. Cards are sometimes posted through the door requiring package collection, despite the residents being at home at the time. New postmen also often only ring service buttons and if unable to gain access, do not contact individual residents. Questions raised by members about a PO audit of effectiveness of their service. Is the PO monitoring this service?

8. Open Forum

Chair noted that a nominee needs to be appointed to attend the Leith NP Steering Group pilot scheme which will be responsible for supporting allocation of £15,000 in grants to local groups. Loraine Duckworth urged CC involvement on this Steering Group and noted that more than one from LCCC could be appointed. Appointments will also be made from Leith Links and Leith Harbour and Newhaven. Jenny MacKenzie and Stan Eadie nominated to represent LCCC. Members approved. Training will be arranged in April.

9. Election of ASCC Edinburgh Representative.

Members agreed a nominated representative from the three candidates available. Secretary to communicate preference to ASCC by closing date of March 22nd.

10. Officers and Councillors Reports.

No councillors in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of £1,480. Expenditures have included minute taker's fee and room hire for sub-group meetings.

Secretary noted that a workshop for Community Planning will be held on 9th June.

Report from Planning sub-committee (Psc)

Updates on current applications include McDonald Road 10/000339/PAN.

The pre-application consultation process for this has been negotiated and will consist of a manned exhibition in McDonald Road Library on the 19th and 20th March and a public meeting in Nelson hall fro 6.30-7.30 on Monday 22nd March. The firm responsible for publicising the event will attend the next Psc meeting on 29th March.

Psc comments on the Shrubhill House and Haddington Place applications were judged to be material.

The Picardy Place application has been postponed indefinitely due to uncertainty about the outcome of the disputes between tie and the consortium BSC.

Other items included:

Response to Forth Energy Proposed Biomass Energy Plant (See 7.1 above).

Shop Front Improvements for Leith Walk: Psc "would always want to see Leith Walk frontages go through the proper planning and listed building/conservation area procedures". Enquiries have also been made about possible shop front improvement schemes.

Edinburgh Allotment Strategy: Members concerned about the possible loss of open space in Pilrig Park and would recommend use of brownfield sites. Charlotte will study strategy and suggest recommendation at the next LCCC meeting.

Report from Transport sub-committee (Tsc).

Detailed response from Tsc to Tram TRO1 (TRO/09/60A) for Leith Walk

forwarded to CEC by deadline of March 21st. Comments included references to some general principles:

- “It is essential that recently published guidelines ‘Designing Street: A Policy Statement for Scotland’ are taken into consideration giving emphasis on placemaking. . . .”
- Tsc do not want another Lothian Road in Leith Walk, where traffic dominates and many independent shops have disappeared. More time-limited parking would help to address these concerns and also help local businesses.

Specific objections and comments included references to:

- Waste Disposal – a design needs to be drawn up that does not further reduce pedestrian space. It should include communal business bins, bin lorries operating before the trams start running, improved storage infrastructure and possibly more frequent waste pickup from residential and business premises.
- Buses -- The reduction on buses should enable a redesign of bus-stops to the area to accommodate the new level of traffic and all user groups including the elderly and fragile.
- Cyclists – The provision of forward stops at traffic lights should be retained at all junctions; Tsc strongly objects to the notion that all cycle traffic should divert to Easter Road; Tsc notes that routing cyclists in Picardy Place and Leith Street is severely compromised under the current design; Where is the provision for bicycle parking?
- TRO consultation: tie has not been very helpful with distribution of plans to the libraries. Paper copies of the plans should be readily available and in good time to allow CC response.
- LCCC urges a public hearing for outstanding objections before taking a final decision. :

Meeting has been set up with Convenor of Transport committee, Cllr Gordon MacKenzie, an official from CEC and from tie with LCCC Tsc for Tuesday 6th April 9am. A panel of five, to include LCCC secretary Roland Reid and Convenor Tsc Stan Eadie will discuss a series of questions previously submitted. Among other issues, including references to points mentioned above, some questions refer to:

- Some clear indication about future of trams in Leith Walk.
- Reinstallation of the bus tracker system at earliest possible opportunity.
- Repair to the poor state of pavements and road surface in Leith Walk.

11. Change of Dates for Meetings (some clashing with Public Holidays).

April meeting now Monday 12th April.

September meeting now Monday 13th September.

AGM remains 17th May 2010.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 12th April 2010, 7.30pm at McDonald’s Road library.