

**Leith Central Community Council (LCCC),**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in the Nelson Room**  
**of McDonald Road Library.**

**Present**

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC and Convenor Planning sub-committee
Stan Eadie	LCCC Convenor Transport sub-committee
Peter Mellors	Resident
Deidre Brock	CEC councillor Leith Walk (SNP)
Mark Armstrong	Resident
Jim Scanlon	Chair Leith Links Community Council
Andrew Johnson	Lothian and Borders Police

**1. Introductions and Announcements.**

The Chair Stewart Blaik welcomed members and attendees to the meeting

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Dominic Moran	LCCC
Julian Siann	LCCC and Redbraes Community Garden
Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Pilmeny Development Project
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC & Greener Leith
Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents Association (PRA)
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton and Hillside

**3 Approval of Minutes for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Minutes Approved by Stan Eadie. Seconded by Roland Reid.

**4 Community Police Officer's Report**

PC Andrew Johnson reported on the appointment of a new station inspector. Bobby Dees has departed and Kevin Mclean will be in post by next week. Inspector Mclean has had previous experience of the area, having formally been based at Portobello.

PC Johnson gave an overview of current issues. Vandalism and youth call outs are down. Pilrig Park is quiet. Drinking and dog fouling is a problem at Dalmeny Park. So too drinking at the park at Hopetoun Crescent. There is a Polish Mission nearby. Edinburgh bye-laws are difficult to enforce. Police can only ask drinkers to "move on". Business break-ins reported with two people apprehended. The mobile CCTV vehicle will be operating in the area.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is looking to establish priorities. Residents are being given advice on stair security Trade waste is being monitored on Leith Walk. Parents are double parking and are causing congestion on McDonald Road. It is difficult for the police to take action. This is a problem when fire tenders are denied access.

The police will report monthly on Leith FM.

#### **5. Police and Fire Service Reform Consultations.**

There was no consensus among members over the Consultation options. Members were invited to comment on an individual basis.

#### **6. Matters Arising.**

- a) Leith Festival Gala. Further to discussions at the previous meeting no request from Leith Festival for support has been received.
- b) Boundary Square. Pohla have advised that the commencement of the work has been postponed as a result of increased costs. A revised scheme is being prepared in line with the budget and statutory requirements with a view to a summer start.
- c) Leith Walk Regeneration Project. Following the cancellation announcement made at the last meeting, the Chair had spoken to the Neighbourhood Partnership Convener and Manager and an extension to the project had been granted. Members agreed that the project should proceed on the following basis. Young people at Pilmeny Development Project have been invited to participate in the project. Cameras will be distributed and photographs will be taken to identify environmental issues. An editorial committee will select the photographs and these will form part of an exhibition and be used to set priorities. Councillor Brock stated that she had been speaking to Traders on Easter Road and with Ian Buchanan and Chris Smith of the City Council. Improvement work had already commenced. Graffiti is being dealt with.

#### **7. Officers and Councillor Reports.**

**Treasurer's Report:** No report

**Secretary's Report:** Community Council insurance scheme provided by brokers Keegan & Pennykid now in place.

##### **Planning sub-committee (plc) report.**

Convenor Annette O'Carroll presented a report of the planning sub-committee of 4<sup>th</sup> April, some excerpts of which follow:

**7.1 The Pre Application Notification for 80 Albion Road (11/00725/PAN).** A previous application had approval but this was for a residential development with underground parking and a landscaped deck over. The current application has overground parking only resulting in a potential loss of green space. An exhibition of the proposals will be made at the Hibs Stadium on Wednesday 13 April. The Sub-Committee will submit a response.

**7.2 158b-162 Leith Walk (11/00817/FUL)** - Change of use to a Leisure facility. Indoor Paintball proposal. Although designated as a "bad neighbour" development the SC had no objections.

**7.3 177-185 Easter Road (11/00241/FUL)** - Change of use shops to residential - Granted. However the application for 222 refused.

**7.4 Leith Walk Action Plan - Meeting with Smith Scott Mullan** - Annette had had a meeting with Alistair Scott to discuss matters of mutual interest concerning the Leith Walk area. She had also attended the AGM of Leith Business Association where concerns over the future of Leith Walk had been expressed. Three Town Centre Action Plan Co-ordinators are to be recruited by the Chamber of Commerce. Total £45k allocated for all 9 areas. The number of empty shops has fallen below the national average. Community Councils did not feature in the proposal. Annette requested that our CC be kept informed.

**7.5 Civic Forum (29th March)** - Annette had attended on behalf of LCCC. John Bury reported that it was now 18 months since the Community Engagement Strategy was instituted and CEC was interested in getting people's views.

**Transport sub-committee (plc) report.** Tram dispute on going. A request to be made to Andy Conway for a meeting around July/August - subject to the outcome of mediation. Concern was expressed that not all buses stopping at Ocean Terminal stop outside the entrance. (*Response from Lothian Buses Commercial Manager circulated by email*) The works to the Shore have commenced. Regretted that a notification of commencement had not been received.

**Councillor Brock's report** As mentioned above, Councillor Brock is working with Easter Road traders to make environmental improvements. The vacant pharmacy has been cleaned up. Local advertising can be incorporated which can generate some income. More frequent rubbish pick-ups are being sought to improve street cleanliness. The barriers at Albion Road require attention.

Noted that the Business Hub at McDonald Road Library has had a successful launch. A picnic will be held at Montgomery Street Park on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. Open Forum.**

8.1 Jim Scanlon has met the new Mela Director, Stephen Stenning. He has experience with organizing events in Glasgow. The Mela will take place between the 2-4 September.

8.2 Stan Eadie wished to record the thanks of the Edinburgh Community Energy Company for the Community Council's support in the Company's application to the Climate Challenge Fund. A grant of £50 145.00 had been awarded.

## **9. Date of next meeting.**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 AGM (*Venue: Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street*)