

Minutes (Draft) for Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) Meeting,
Monday 21st June 2010, 7.30pm
at McDonald Road Library

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Ann Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Appointed LCCC (PDP)
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC (Convenor Planning)
Stan Eadie	LCCC (Convenor Transport)
Charlotte Encombe	LCCC
Cllr Angela Blacklock	CEC (Labour)
PC Margo Darling	Lothian and Borders Police
Juan Garcia	LCCC
Joan Corbett	LCCC
Julian Siann	LCCC
Rob Hainsworth	LCCC
Ann Stark	Friends of Calton Park
Geraldine Depard	Friends of Montgomery Street Park
Peter Mellor	Resident
Mo Aimes	Youth worker Pilmeny Development Project
Shaun	Pilmeny Development Project
Leonne Lomax	Pilmeny Development Project

1. Introductions and Announcements

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting. The Agenda was agreed.

2. Apologies for Absence.

John Hein	Vice-chair LCCC
Mark Armstrong	Resident
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Walter Dods	LCCC
Dominic Moran	LCCC
MSP Malcolm Chisholm	North Edinburgh (Lab)
Mark Lazarowicz	MP North Edinburgh
Loraine Duckworth	CEC Services for Communities
Jim Scanlon	Chair Leith Links CC
Cllr Deidre Brock	CEC (SNP)
Cllr Maggie Chapman	CEC (Green Party)
PC Chris Johnstone	Lothian and Borders Police

3. Pilmeny Community Exploration Project

Two young people from the Pilmeny Project, Shaun and Leone thanked the CC for past financial support, for taking part in the Community Exploration Project, and for inviting

them to the meeting to provide an update. They said that the Project allowed young people in the area to 'voice' their opinions about what is good, bad and could be improved in their area. They noted that two Leith Central CCllrs had agreed to visit them. They had some questions to ask and agreed to be interviewed. Some of the points that emerged out of the interviews were that young people would like to see no trams, more traffic lights and a graffiti wall in Dalmeny Park. They would also appreciate more clubs and more fun days for young people. A report will shortly be produced summarising the project and the information that has emerged. Members asked the young people a range of questions and congratulated them on an interesting and confident presentation.

4. Redbraes Community Garden

CCllr Julian Siann told Leith Central members about the award-winning community garden in Redbraes Place, just off Broughton Road, which has been created from a once derelict path of land. He noted that it was 'a very small project, but very successful'. A project which sprang out of a Residents' Association plan, in 2009 it won the coveted Edinburgh in Bloom award. Funding of £10,000 that had been secured enabled paths, beds and borders to be created, thanks to the inspirational design provided by Leith resident Becky Govier. PC Simon Daly, also from Leith, was acknowledged for his 'outstanding' support in helping to turn soil and lift heavy items. Local residents who care for and enjoy the garden would like to open up the back fence and link the garden with the path near the Water of Leith. Julian encouraged members to visit the garden and to attend a forthcoming Bar B Q event to be held in July, at which a Zimbabwean music group will perform. Date to be announced.

Members held some discussion about holding a charter, which could create 'ownership' but with which would come responsibilities for upkeep.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting 17th May 2010-06-25

Correction to attendance list: Add Dominic Moran.

Minutes approved by Roland Reid. Seconded by Cllr Angela Blacklock.

6. Community Police Officer's Report

PC Margo Darling reported for the Lorne, Bonnington and Hillside Beats.

In **Lorne** a rape had taken place in Balfour Street and 'a positive line of enquiry is being followed at this time'. PC Johnston has given Balfour Street extra attention over the passing days to reassure the community. Also in Lorne there had been a number of vandalisms and property damaged in and around Dalmeny Street and Sloan Street.

In the **Hillside** area graffiti 'remains a problem'. Officers on patrol in the Easter Road witnessed a male spraying graffiti on a wall in Easter Road. He was detained, and following an investigation, was later identified as having committed a number of similar offences in the area.

On the **Bonnington** beat there have been three Racial Breach of the Peace, two of which occurred within the same incident. May saw a decline in Malicious Mischief to four crimes reported, with three break-ins to cars. A male has been charged with a further break-in to Bonnington Primary School. There were four thefts with a prolific offender being charged with theft from an older person's home. There were two shoplifting thefts,

one of which was solved. Three males have been arrested for breaking and stealing from a building site.

7. Officers' and Councillor's Reports.

Treasurer's report

At the beginning of April, the account had £1,477 in credit. In June the figure is now £1,719, having received £500 CEC funding for newsletter printing costs. This invoice will shortly be paid.

Secretary's report.

The secretary reported the publication of the Leith Joint newsletter which was prepared in time for the Leith Gala. Five thousand copies were produced, with three thousand being distributed by Premier Delivery to households within the three CC boundaries. Two thousand were held over for distribution at the Gala, in local libraries and for ongoing publicity communication with partner organisations. Total cost of the newsletter was £1,007 with the cost being shared between CEC grant (£500), Leith Harbour Newsletter Account (£139), Community Safety Panel (£50) Tie (£50) and £106 donated from each CC. The newsletter was popular on the day of the Gala and encouraged discussion about consultation issues. The secretary reported that it was interesting to hear young people's views.

A follow-up newsletter is being considered, to widely disseminate the results of the Leith Gala consultation, and to report on such contentious issues as the Tram Project and the proposed Biomass plant. Discussions are under way to consider working with Leith Links and Leith Harbour and Newhaven CCs on future newsletters and a joint website.

Cllr Blacklock's report.

Cllr Blacklock reported that the Education Committee is considering making use of part of Leith Walk Primary School as the main site for Gaelic Education. Gaelic studies are increasingly popular with demand outstripping the present school site capacity. This will be a bonus for Leith and the school.

An interview with Richard Jeffrey, the head of Tie has revealed that, with an estimated shortfall of £55m for the Tram Project budget, it is likely that only the line from Haymarket to the Airport will continue to be developed in the foreseeable future. The cost of running trams from St Andrew's Square is projected at a further £70m. So many costs have not been anticipated in the original costings, including an extra £30m having to be included for the 'restructuring' of Princes Street'. . Concern was expressed both for the traders in Leith Walk who have lost business during the works, and about the state of the pavements and roads that have also been affected. One member commented that effectively 'two different cities' are developing in Edinburgh. A delay in the Tram project to Newhaven will put this side of the city behind for many years.

Transport sub-committee (Tsc)

Public realm issues are now a priority with the committee anxious to secure reassurances about the re-installation of bus trackers and a range of public realm issues. A consensus needs to be reached, and this will tie in with the Gala consultation results, which indicate

local peoples' concerns about the state of Leith Walk. A meeting will be held asap to decide on the way forward. Tie/CEC liaison officer Andy Conway will be invited to attend a meeting with drawings for the Foot of the Walk at the earliest opportunity.

Planning sub-committee

Convenor Annette O'Carroll noted that at the present time the chances that anything will be built in Leith Walk is looking increasingly unlikely. Nothing is happening regarding the proposed development in Haddington Place and the Shrubhill House empty building is now likely to remain in its present state for the foreseeable future.

Mr Aslam at 307 Leith Walk has lodged a re-submission for his shopfront together with nine letters of support and a petition with more than 30 signatures.

Charlotte had circulated a submission for the Draft Open Space strategy (21st May).

Charlotte to represent the Planning sub-committee's views for Leith Central CC at a meeting (June 22nd) regarding the Leith Docks 'villages' application by Forth Ports.

A letter had been received from the Managing Director of Forth Ports Property Division Nathan Thompson refuting press reports that the original plans for the regeneration of Leith Docks had been 'ripped up'. He said: "We have been working with the community for over two years on the proposals for the regeneration of The Harbour, Leith Docks and should the committee choose to approve the application then we will be in a position to progress on to the next stage of our journey which will involve the preparation of detailed planning applications for individual buildings."

8. Matters Arising

8.1 Forth Energy's Combined Heat and Power Plant/PAS training Event

Julian, Roland and Jenny attended this training event which was seen as very valuable in understanding the process under which consideration will be given to a proposal for a Biomass plant in Leith. A decision will be subject to the determination by the Scottish Government.. A public meeting organised by the Neighbourhood Partnership will be held sometime in July. It was noted that 28 days allows very little time for an informed response. Leith Central CC's submission will oppose the current proposal, particularly the proposed size and siting.

8.2 Community Council promotion and training – Leith Gala and newsletter distribution (See secretary's report).

8.3. CC Communications – Appointment of officer.

Secretary to prepare a 'job description' for this role. Nominations to be made at the next meeting.

8.4. EACC AGM – Draft minutes of the meeting, which provide a comprehensive report, will be circulated to members shortly.

9. Open Forum

A request was made that concerns be raised once more over the former janitor's house at Leith Walk Primary School. A weakness in the legislation affects such historic buildings

as this property, attaching conditions to the building. All councillors in the area would support something being done. The matter will be referred once more to MSP Malcolm Chisholm.

Attention is drawn again to the light-controlled crossing outside the Hibs Grounds which has never been activated. Cllr Blacklock to investigate.

The Culture and Leisure committee is to consider a request (June 22nd) from Dancebase to make use of Thomas Morton Hall for dance classes in the area. Surplus income generated from the classes will go to Leith Theatre Trust, which sees this application as an important step forward in the Trust's move to get the Theatre refurbished and brought back into use as soon as possible.

10. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 16th August, 2010.