

Minutes (Draft) for Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) Meeting,
Monday 12th April 2010, 7.30pm
at McDonald Road Library

Present

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
John Hein	Vice-chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute taker and Appointed LCCC (PDP)
Annette O'Carroll	LCCC (Convenor Planning)
Lorraine Duckworth	CEC Services for Communities
Harald Tobermann	LCCC
Joan Corbett	LCCC
Ross McEwan	LCCC
MSP Malcolm Chisholm	North Edinburgh (Lab)
Ed Dunlop	POLHA
Mark Armstrong	Resident

1. Introductions and Announcements

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Anne Munro
Dominic Moran
Charlotte Encombe
Rob Hainsworth
Juan Garcia,
Walter Dods,
Jim Scanlon
Stan Eadie

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (15th March 2010)

Attendance list: change Stan Eadie's title to correct as Convenor of Transport sub-co.
Approved by Lorraine Duckworth, Seconded by Annette O'Carroll

4. Community Police Officer's Report: No report. No officer in attendance
Secretary to contact the new officer for email details.

5. Boundary Square. Update provided by Community Initiatives Manager for Port
of Leith Housing Association (POLHA), Ed Dunlop.

The long-running issue of much-needed changes to the Square, which is near to the
Lorne Centre in Buchanan Street, now has a revised plan. Architect plans have been
considered before but rejected as too costly. The current plan, which requires
£65,000 for completion) works on an assumption that the £50,000 previously
committed by CEC is still available. POLHA hopes to source the other £15,000 from

WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd). Consultations have taken place and therefore the costings also work on the assumption that the plans will be acceptable without further debate. The matter will be presented to CEC in June/July. The design includes: removal of existing walls to increase visibility and reduce sound echoing; creation of terraces to break up space and prevent ball games; extra light; fewer trees; a fenced community garden and improved disability access. Some trees will be retained to provide habitat for local birds and some public artwork is proposed. Low retaining walls will include coping stones which will discourage sitting and drinking in the area. Success of the plan will require all of the partners involved working together. Maintenance of the work, once completed, will be a key factor and a maintenance agreement needs to be examined and agreed as a first step for the plan. Ross McEwan noted that it is this sort of plan that is often adopted as a community project. CCllrs indicated a preference for the maintenance to be adopted by CEC.

6. Officer's and Councillors' reports.

No councilors present, no apologies, no reports submitted.

No Treasurer's report.

Secretary's report

Attention was drawn to documentation received on the Draft Open Space Strategy and a series of consultation events to be held across the city. The Leith event will be held in the Leith Library Community Room on Tuesday 22nd April 6-8pm.

Chair's report

A request has been made for the CC to support a petition to the Neighbourhood Partnership to adopt a Burgh Coat of Arms. The cost would be a minimum of £700 and only one CC could be named as the owner of the logo. Decision taken that this is not a good investment of NP money. LCCC does not support the recommendation.

Planning sub-committee (psc). Convenor's report (Annette O'Carroll).

No sub-committee meeting held due to holiday period, but next date set for 26th April. A public consultation was held 19th/20th March in McDonald Road Library re the **proposed development in McDonald Road** (on the Martin and Frost site.) The proposal is for 83 flats with the affordable housing described as off-site, although linked to POLHA. Scottish Government guidelines acknowledge that this can occur in very special circumstances. LCCC asks why this clause appears to be quoted in almost every developer application.

LCCC strongly oppose such a plan as it ignores the mixed housing requirements and points to a possibility that all affordable housing is more likely to be located near to more industrial areas, such as near to the proposed Bio Mass Plant for example. LCCC recommends mixed use developments and strongly resists off-site social housing allocations.

Brunswick Road

CEC has asked for a similar consultation as to that for McDonald Road – a manned exhibition for at least two days, with one of these being a Saturday.

Shrubhill House: Planning permission has been granted subject to the conclusion of a legal agreement. CEC has asked the developers for more than £850,000 towards the tram project, £55,000 for cycling facilities and £2,000 for necessary TROs. The applicant has offered £350,000. The CEC comment notes that it has supported “reductions in the levels of contributions as part of the Economic Resiliency Action Plan on other applications”, it did not support a reduction in this instance as “a case has not been made.”

Forth Energy Biomass Plant.

Psc has responded to the Scoping Report re the Biomass plant. The Convenor recommends that LCCC oppose the application. The Convenor noted that Greener Leith have posted a very good response document which can be viewed on their site. Both the Evening News and Greener Leith highlighted Forth Energy’s ‘misleading’ claim that 73% of a survey respondents felt the plan would benefit the area. Reservations have been expressed by: Cockburn Association, WWF Scotland, POLHA, Confederation of Forest Industries and MSPs Kenny MacKaskill and Shirley Ann Somerville.

Letter re-submitted to LCCC, prepared by Psc objecting to the Power plant for approval to forward to MSP Malcolm Chisholm. Agreed.

Malcolm Chisholm noted that forth Energy were under no obligation to consult people and that the application will be decided by the Scottish Government. But he also noted that if the CEC objects to the application, then the matter must go to public enquiry.

Transport sub-committee (tsc)

Harald Tobermann (Acting convenor) reported on both a tsc response to the TRO and a meeting with Convenor of the Transport Committee Cllr Gordon MacKenzie. Also attending were Steven Cuthill (North Edinburgh Environmental Manager) and Andy Conway (CEC liaison CEC/tie). Notes still subject to all parties’ approval, but will be circulated to all members.

Cllr MacKenzie noted that the main obstacle to moving the tram project forward is the main contractor’s ongoing dispute and their ‘interpretation’ of the contract. There are currently 14 disputes but well over 500 issues being raised. He said that “the tactics being used are part of the dispute”. Four of the disputes have been settled, but CEC stands firm that it must gain the best price for the project and insist on an honouring of contractual agreements.

Information was made available about the bus trackers (CEC has urged Scottish Power (SP) to reinstate those not working, but are waiting for SP to move the matter up their list of priorities) SP have indicated they must address Health and Safety issues, like damaged lighting as their first priority.

Andy Conway indicated a willingness to attend a tsc meeting and bring a detailed drawing of one section of Leith Walk to enable full and frank discussion. This to be

arranged. Cllr MacKenzie said that a more detailed email response to some of tsc's queries will be forwarded to LCCC as soon as possible.

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Forth Energy Power Plant. (see item 6)

7.2 CC promotion and training.

- Chair, secretary and Newsletter editor have met to plan newsletter content. Liaison with both Leith Harbour and Newhaven and Leith Links is in process.
- Planning Aid is arranging a training event (June 5th) which is geared specifically around the proposed Bio-mass plant. .

7.3 CC Communication. No action

7.4 ASCC Edinburgh Representative election. Norman Bonney has been elected to the post.

The next EACC Question Time will be on the subject of the **Edinburgh Partnership (EP)**. This will be held on Thursday 20th May in the Business Centre at City Chambers, starting at 7.30pm. On the panel will be Norma Cuthbertson (Secretariat EP) and Pamela Roccio (EP/EACC community liaison).

7.5 Licensing. Extension of Hours. A letter has been received from the Clerk of the Licensing Board notifying a request to the Board for consideration of a change to the licensing hours for Sundays. Also included in the statement is a request to consider occasional licence applications linked to sports events. Suggested consultation would be with Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Councils, relevant Council departments and Health bodies. LCCC opposes both recommendations, noting that the special circumstances that extend to Leith could result in public houses being open at 7am on Sunday mornings as well. This is perceived as unsuitable in an area where Alcohol and Public Health is already a source of concern and ongoing debate.

8. Open Forum

Granton sur Mer

- A pre-application consultation in the form of a public meeting will be held at The Lighthouse in Granton (20-22 West Harbour Road) on April 15th at 7pm.
- Stan Eadie had contacted the Chair to note that a public house on the corner of Ferry Road and Trafalgar Street has permission to seat tables and chairs on the pavement, but customers are blocking the pathway for pushchairs and wheelchairs. CEC officials are working with the pub owner.
- Hoarding on the Shrubhill House site in Leith Walk is broken and is lying on the pavement. Secretary to contact Health and Safety as a matter of priority.
- A CEC contact for the area regarding dog fouling and other environmental issues is Mark Bannon: 0131 529 7450

9. Date of next meeting.

The LCCC AGM will be held on Monday 17th May 2010 at Out of the Blue.