

# Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council ordinary meeting, held at Persevere Room, Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate on Wednesday 6 May 2015 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS. NEM CON means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

## 1 Introductions

### 1.1 Attendance

Heather Ford	LHNCC	Don Giles	resident/FOWLB
Denise Jones	LHNCC	Heather Milligan	resident
Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Evie Murray	LHNCC	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Neil Wilson	LHNCC (FOWLB rep)	Cllr Gordon Munro	Leith ward (Labour)
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	PC Gus McNulty	Police Scotland

### 1.2 Apologies for Absence

Robert Weir	LHNCC chair	Jim Scanlon	Leith Links CC chair
George Rosie	resident	Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)

## 2 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved *nem con*

### 2.1 Matters arising

#### 2.1.1 Gala insurance

H Milligan reported that Gala insurance covered Gala events at Victoria Primary School, and that CC insurance covered Gala events at the Harbour

#### 2.1.2 Local group representatives

It was noted that D Giles and N Wilson had not yet been accredited by Edinburgh Council.

#### 2.1.3 Appointment of new treasurer

It was noted that without a replacement for S Burns, LHNCC might have to cease or merge with a neighbouring CC. It was also noted that the role is not onerous. (S Burns' Gala activities are not part of this role and have been taken on by A Mackie and R Weir.)

H Ford volunteered to take over as treasurer. A Mackie volunteered to also become a bank account signatory.

### 2.2 Water of Leith silt and related matters

D Giles noted that the flood risk report, covering all of the Forth estuary (available on LHNCC website at <http://lhncc.co.uk/2015/04/03/flood-prevention>) has very little mention of Leith (item 10-8 on pages 360–380). Leith is mostly a medium risk area (risk = 1 serious flood in 100 years), but some parts of Leith are high risk areas. However, is more likely further up the Water of Leith catchment, outwith Leith. For example, potential damage in Broxburn is estimated at £1 million. Risk are from sea-flooding (10%), surface waters (35%) and rivers (55%).

SEPA are due to re-run the computer models underlying the report, using a higher margin for climate change (12%). This re-run will give predictions up to 2054 little mention of Leith. There is also a set of questionnaires about the potentially vulnerable areas at [https://frm-scotland.org.uk/frmp/ph2\\_forth-estuary-lpd-10-draft-flood-risk-mana/consultation](https://frm-scotland.org.uk/frmp/ph2_forth-estuary-lpd-10-draft-flood-risk-mana/consultation). The questionnaire about the Water of Leith catchment is at [https://frm-scotland.org.uk/frmp/ph2\\_forth-estuary-lpd-10-draft-flood-risk-mana/consultation/subpage.2014-11-04.9422621250](https://frm-scotland.org.uk/frmp/ph2_forth-estuary-lpd-10-draft-flood-risk-mana/consultation/subpage.2014-11-04.9422621250). It was suggested that surface water drainage is an issue for Scottish Water – they should dispose of it properly, not dump it into the sea because that pollutes the sea.

Cllr McVey stated that he looks forward to the new data and that he wishes to pursue the potential flooding issue in Leith. D Giles replies that silt does not affect this flooding potential – flow is controlled by the lock gates.

It was noted that Water of Leith 2000 owns the WoL solum and hence controls the WoL's amenity value. It was also noted that bridges in Leith will be cleaned out on 23 May. It was suggested that the Cruz boat-restaurant's exterior appearance detracts from WoL's visual amenity, but that there is a potential tenant who might deal with this issue. It was also noted that there has been activity at police box coffee-shop but that it is not yet open.

### 2.3 Custom House

Cllr Munro reported that missives have recently been concluded and that CEC councillors have viewed the building. Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) are investigating costs for painting and other renovation. There will be a feasibility study around the building's future, looking ahead around 5 years. SHBT is to lease the building to Out of The Blue, who will then sublet it to artists and other small businesses, so that the building is in use as soon as possible – there is no shortage of potential tenants. The building may be ready for Doors Open Day (September 2015). Temporary uses may include a 'secret cinema'.

### 2.4 Future of liner terminal

Forth Ports has responded positively to a request for a meeting with LHNCC representatives, i.e. R Weir and A Mackie. **ACTION: RW AND AM TO REPORT BACK TO LHNCC.**

It was noted that Newhaven Harbour is being dredged (cost around £300K), and that other areas are putting themselves forward as sites for the putative liner terminal. While this matter is at a very early stage, LHNCC needs to consider relevant questions, e.g. bus routes, environmental questions, socio-economic questions, and try to ensure that the liner terminal would benefit LHNCC's area. Edinburgh Council's Economy committee has also been invited to see the potential terminal's area – this may provide more information to inform such debate.

Cllr Munro noted that this development would link with the Leith Economic Framework.

### 2.5 Road Junction at Commercial St/Nth Junction St

V Barr has gathered statistics on horn-abuse – see Appendix 1 below. **ACTION: CLLR McVEY WILL FOLLOW UP THIS ISSUE AND REPORT BACK AT LHNCC'S NEXT MEETING.**

### 2.6 Edinburgh Association of Community Councils elections

A Mackie noted the current attempts to bring 'new blood' into EACC. More information (e.g. candidates) is on BaseCamp (<https://basecamp.com/2876301/projects/8542726>). D Giles had attended an EACC meeting, one purpose of which was to decide the date for EACC's AGM. (This had been postponed due to an EACC office-bearer's illness.) This meeting took 40 minutes to decide the date and hence had almost no time to discuss the 'click and connect' document – see LHNCC April minutes at [https://lhncc.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/2015\\_04\\_01-final.pdf](https://lhncc.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/2015_04_01-final.pdf).

**ACTION: A MACKIE TO REPRESENT LHNCC AT EACC AGM (21 MAY)**

### 2.7 Newhaven Gala

A Mackie and S Burns are handling LHNCC's involvement in this, including insurance matters.

### 2.8 Centenary of Gretna Rail Disaster

H Ford has bought a wreath with the Leith 'persevere' coat of arms, and will represent LHNCC at the commemoration (23 May)

## 3 Reports

### 3.1 Police report (PC Gus McNulty)

#### 3.1.1 Speeding on Ocean Drive

Leith police station officers now have a hand-held 'speeding gun' and are being trained in its use. Use has started, and it is anticipated that this will lead to fewer offences.

#### 3.1.2 Drug dealing in LHNCC area

A briefing note has been circulated around Leith police officers, who will patrol appropriately. It was requested that residents observing drug dealing alert the police directly, so that they can build cases for warrants. This can be done via crimestoppers (0800 555 111, <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/in-your-area>) to protect witnesses' anonymity. It was noted that residents are afraid to contact the police, so they are reporting via an LHNCC member. Cllr Munro also noted that reports of drug dealing can be made at Cables Wynd House, or via block managers.

Housing officers have investigated both flats mentioned at LHNCC's last meeting. There is not yet enough evidence for action. However, a Citadel Court resident has been arrested several times for breaches of his or her antisocial behaviour order.

New psychoactive substances (aka 'legal highs') are being used – these are not covered by misuse of drugs Acts.

**3.1.3 Youth antisocial behaviour in Western Harbour/lighthouse**

Police are acting on this issue. It was suggested that a hole in a fence owned by Forth Ports needs to be repaired to prevent access

**3.1.4 Crime statistics in Leith**

487 crimes were recorded from 31 January to now. There were 397 recorded crimes in the same period in 2014. PC McNulty did not know whether other areas of Edinburgh had suffered similar proportional increases. D Giles noted that Fairmilehead CC had received a written report of local crime statistics, and asked why other CCs did not receive such reports. **ACTIONS: PC McNULTY TO REQUEST SUCH A REPORT FOR LHNCC, A MACKIE TO REQUEST SGT COULL TO ARRANGE SUCH REPORTS.**

**3.2 Secretary**

All matters covered in previous items.

**3.3 Treasurer**

CC normal account balance: £1087.47, Special Events account balance £35.03

**3.4 Planning**

There has been no news on the Ocean Terminal application. (See appendix 2 of March minutes at [https://lhncc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/2015\\_03\\_04-final1.pdf](https://lhncc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/2015_03_04-final1.pdf).)

**3.4.1 Market at Dock Place**

N Wilson noted that this 'exciting' development would be run by the organisation that runs Sunday morning markets in Stockbridge. The Dock Street market would be on Saturdays, 10am–5pm. Amplified music would not be allowed. Requirements on traders would be strict, e.g. vehicles must be parked elsewhere, no more than 20% of stalls may sell hot food. It was noted that Forth Ports have agreed this use of their land.

**3.4.2 Tennent Street developments**

N Wilson noted that LHNCC is a statutory consultee on these planning applications. One (for 27 townhouses) has already been approved, but two more (for 13 houses and 22 flats) are in progress. LHNCC has been invited to comment due to the change in land use from nursing homes to normal residential use. The area in question is adjacent to the Gaelic school. NW suggested that the proposed layout is 'not bad' but the proposed frontage is bland. However, the housing development would be less massive than the formerly proposed nursing home.

H Ford expressed concern that the area might be contaminated with arsenic and other industrial residues. Cllr McVey responded that environmental impact assessments would be undertaken.

**ACTION: N WILSON TO CIRCULATE PDF OF APPLICATION**

**4 Capacity building**

Deferred to next meeting

**5 AOCB**

Under a proposed boundary change, Newhaven would become part of Forth ward. **ACTION: LHNCC MEMBERS TO COLLABORATE ON A SUBMISSION ON THIS MATTER VIA EMAIL.**

D Giles noted that Edinburgh Council is reviewing the Leith conservation area, and that rows of bins have been placed by historical buildings. He suggested that Edinburgh Council should do better, e.g. site bins off-street. It was also noted that a trade waste scheme is now being rolled out in the city centre, and would come to Leith in due course. An issue with bins in Henderson Street, by the Raj restaurant, that forces pedestrians to walk in the street was also noted.

LHNCC will formally thank S Burns for her years of work as LHNCC treasurer.

**6 Date of next meeting**

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – it was decided that the subsequent meeting would be in September.

## Appendix 1 – horn-abuse

### Lindsay road - Commercial Street - Ocean Drive - North Junction Street crossroad

1-25 April

#### Background

Agenda item 4.3.1 of the minutes of the Leith & Newhaven Harbour Community Council community meeting (1st April 2015) related to a complaint regarding increased horn use at the junction. Traffic volumes over the last 10 years have changed with the junction being the main access route to Ocean Terminal and a route to newer developments in Western Harbour and Granton. It was suggested that the possible reasons for confusion and poor driving may be due to:

- road layout,
- traffic signals,
- reconfiguration of the Shore and the Foot of the Walk,
- recommended HGV route adding to weight of traffic and driver frustration.

#### Purpose of Report

To request an investigation into the junction, it was suggested that data was collated to determine whether there were specific times of horn-abuse. This document summarises the main findings.

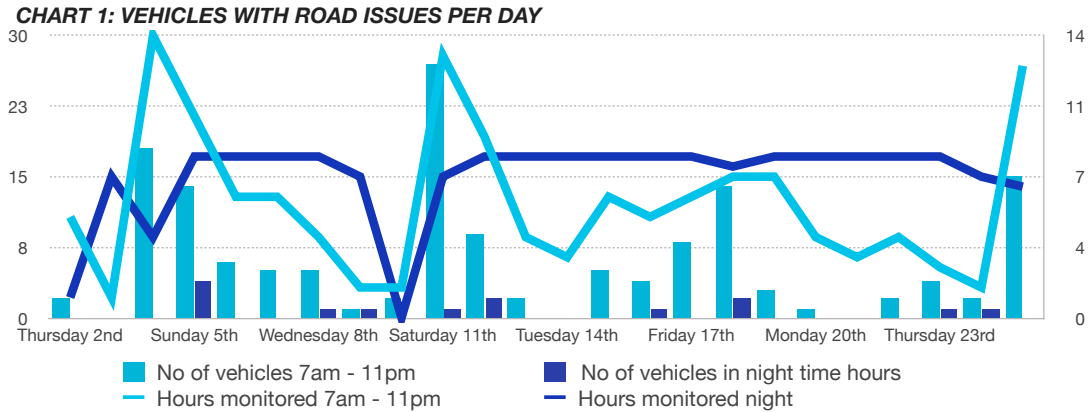
#### Key Findings

Between 2 April - 25 April 2015, **163 incidents were recorded over 293 hours equating to 0.6 uses of the horn per hour**. The majority of incidents were recorded at the weekend. However, it is noted there was a longer period of monitoring during the weekend. See Table 1 for details.

Table 1: Incident per hour

WEEKDAY INCIDENTS RECORDED 7AM - 11PM	WEEKDAY HOURS MONITORED 7AM - 11PM	WEEKDAY - AVG INCIDENTS PER HR 7AM - 11PM
<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0.8</b>
WEEKEND INCIDENTS RECORDED 7AM - 11PM	WEEKEND HOURS MONITORED 7AM - 11PM	WEEKENDS - AVG INCIDENTS PER HR 7AM - 11PM
<b>100</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1.4</b>
NIGHT TIME INCIDENTS RECORDED 11PM - 7AM	NIGHT TIME HOURS MONITORED 11PM - 7 AM	NIGHT - AVG INCIDENTS PER HR 11PM - 7 AM
<b>14</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>0.1</b>
TOTAL INCIDENTS RECORDED	TOTAL HOURS MONITORED	ALL DAYS - AVG INCIDENTS PER HR
<b>163</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>0.6</b>

During the period of monitoring, the peaks of horn-abuse incidents were at the weekend. However, there was greater hours of monitoring at the weekend (see chart 1).



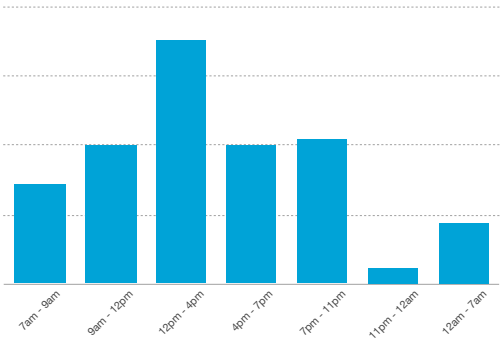
Horn-abuse time profile

Overall the entire period, it appears that the majority of the incidents occurred during 12pm-4pm (see chart 2).

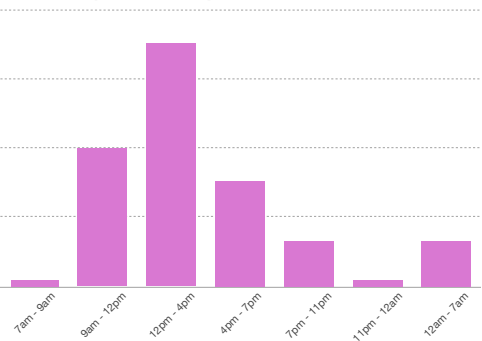
More hours were monitored during the weekend, which shows 12pm-4pm is the peak time (see chart 3)

During the week the majority of incidents occurred 7am-9am and 7pm-11pm (see chart 4). It should be noted that minimal monitoring occurred between 9am - 5pm. No definite conclusions can be made about the profile during the week.

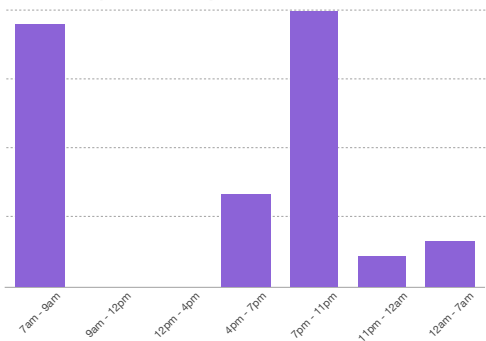
**CHART 2: VEHICLES WITH ROAD ISSUES BY TIME OF DAY (ALL DAYS)**



**CHART 3: VEHICLES WITH ROAD ISSUES BY TIME OF DAY (WEEKEND)**



**CHART 4: VEHICLES WITH ROAD ISSUES BY TIME OF DAY (WEEKDAY)**



Other considerations

Reasons for why a horn was being used was identifiable in 7% of the 163 incidents recorded. Most of these reasons were from cars from North Junction Street to Ocean drive or turning right from North Junction Street.

I would propose that information be sought regarding the the number of traffic accidents occurring at the junction.

To be certain of the extent and timing of the problem, it is suggested that a fuller survey is conducted by Edinburgh council.