

Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council ordinary meeting, held at Persevere Room, Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate on Wednesday 3 June 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	Ron Catell	resident
George Johnston	LHNCC	Don Giles	resident/FOWLB
Denise Jones	LHNCC	Heather Milligan	resident
Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Robert Weir	LHNCC chair	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Neil Wilson	LHNCC (FOWLB rep)	PC Colin Spence	Police Scotland
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh Northern & Leith (Labour)

1.2 Apologies for absence

None received

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved *nem con*, subject to noting in item 2.3 that Scottish Historical Buildings Trust (SHBT) will lease the building to Out of The Blue.

2.1 Matters arising

2.1.1 Water of Leith silt and Cruz floating restaurant

D Giles reported that water levels have not been low recently, leading to positive effects such as big logs being flushed away, leading to reduction in bird activity. FOWLB members have been cleaning rubbish from the water – Edinburgh council has disposed of this rubbish.

G Johnston noted that SEPA's report implies that areas outside Leith have bigger potential flooding problems, but that this is contrary to SEPA's warnings that flooding could be a major issue in Leith. This is affecting insurance, e.g. Lambs House has been unable to obtain cover against flooding. D Giles reported that SEPA's policy is that if insurers are using SEPA maps to identify risk levels, insurers can appeal to SEPA. There is on-going debate about silt issues – it affects amenities, not flooding.

ACTIONS: CLLR BOOTH AND D GILES/FOWLB TO CHASE THIS UP

Cllr McVey noted that the re-run of the flood-risk model (which has been allocated £40,000 in Edinburgh Council's 2015-2016 budget) is due in 2015. This rerun will take into account the Roseburn flood works.

H Ford noted that the Cruz floating restaurant, currently owned by Water of Leith 2000, is likely to be leased out soon.

2.1.2 Custom House

G Johnston reported that SHBT have moved furniture in today. Their lease is until 2029 (initial 5-year period, followed by 9-year period). There will be a doors-open event on June 14th (10am – 4pm). This is in addition to the Cockburn Association's doors-open event in September.

2.1.3 Future of liner terminal

R Weir has not yet been able to arrange a meeting with Forth Ports. He wishes to discuss *inter alia* that bigger liners currently cannot dock at Newhaven. It was noted that there has been much dredging in the last 3 months – this has apparently not affected harbour users. ACTION: RW WILL CONTACT THE PORT OF LEITH MOTORBOAT CLUB, THE OWNER OF THE HARBOUR PONTOONS, TO SEE IF THERE ARE 'UNSPOKEN CONCERNS'.

M Chisholm has met with Forth Ports chief executive (Charles Hammond) and reported that the port should go live this year – 5 offshore arrivals offloading at Newhaven are planned.

Ron Cattell has been in correspondence with Robert Mason of FP – there is disagreement between RC and FP over the numbers of liners using the Forth.

It was agreed that LHNCC is concerned that use of Leith docks for cruises is falling. LHNCC wishes direct benefits for its area from the 80 ships due to dock in ports in the Forth (including Rosyth).

2.1.4 Road Junction at Commercial St/Nth Junction St

Cllr McVey has been informed by Edinburgh Council roads department that fault lies with drivers, rather than the design of the junction. See Appendix 1 for text of these emails.

2.1.5 EACC Elections

It was noted that new office-bearers are now in place, keen to make things happen. The Basecamp online communication system seems to be useful. (However, since this meeting one of the new office-bearers has resigned.)

2.1.6 Newhaven Gala

This was a very successful event, bringing in around £2300 gross revenue

3 Reports

3.1 Police (PC Colin Spence)

PC Spence made the following points:

- Major incidents are being reported on social media.
- Operation Elbrus is combatting rise in housebreaking and youth issues in Leith, using high-visibility foot patrols. This will last as long as there is demand. Crimes of violence and robberies continue to be of concern in LHNCC's area. Such crimes tend to occur in the late evening, while post offices being burgled around midnight. Elbrus is also taking into account drug-dealing, an ongoing issue in LHNCC's area.
 - H Ford noted that there is no CCTV in the Cromwell Street area, so 10-12 in the morning is a frequent 'shooting-up' time.
- The increase in crimes reported last meeting is, at least in part, due to increased cycle thefts.
- If LHNCC wishes to receive written reports (as other CCs do) and to build an ongoing relationship with Police Scotland, LHNCC should contact the relevant senior officers (probably CI Harram or Insp Kevin McLean).
- There has been progress about speeding crimes on Ocean Drive, using speed-gun patrols.
 - Cllr Booth has been in correspondence with Police Scotland about speeding in the Western Harbour area.
- Concerning the community police officers funded by Edinburgh Council, PC Spence reported that this scheme has not yet started. Cllr McVey reported that this scheme is not new. (Edinburgh Council used to fund Lothian & Borders Police in this manner before the advent of Police Scotland.) It is overseen by the Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee.

3.2 Secretary

A Mackie reported that

- Forth Ports are unhappy about the Leith study, according to Greener Leith (<http://greenerleith.org.uk/blog/leith-economic-study-potentially-libellous-says-forth-ports-5334>). FP's and other responses to the report are available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20YzPAE8aEUUdTT3JBcGJtaFE1RXM4aU5GcnNwRDU4U3Zl/view>
- There will be a *ready for* 20mph event at the city chambers on 15 June (6-8:30). Cllr McVey noted that the new speed limits will be enforced as existing ones are, i.e. Edinburgh Council will monitor where there are concentrations of speeding. Citizens can report issues by calling 101
- There is a Facebook page for community councillors at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Scotlands.community.councillors.chewin.the.fat>

3.3 Treasurer

The chair thanked Heather Ford for taking on this role.

HF reported that the Gretna commemoration had been a 'wonderful' event. It was reported that LHNCC's wreath had appeared on television footage.

HF now has all the treasurer documentation, and will arrange updating of cheque signatories.

4 Events

A Mackie is taking on the Xmas tree lighting previously arranged by S Burns. H Milligan reported that Victoria Primary School has liability insurance for on-premises events.

5 Planning

N Wilson reported on application 15/02317/AMC: Erection of 138 new residential units on land 50 metres east of 20 Newhaven Place Edinburgh EH6 4UJ. The design has changed since permission was originally granted, from 3 to storeys and to 151 'decoupled' parking places. Most flats (81%) will have two bedrooms, 10% will have 1 bedroom. There will be no retail premises or loading parking. The deadline for comments is 19 June.

ACTIONS: B RYAN TO POST A REQUEST FOR VIEWS TO LHNCC'S WEBSITE, H MILLIGAN TO CONTACT VPS' PARENT COUNCIL.

6 Capacity building

G Johnston suggested that LHNCC should make links with relevant local groups, to be a focus of community activity. D Giles has contacted the Partnership and Information Manager of City Centre and Leith Neighbourhood Partnership about advertising LHNCC and attracting new members.

H Ford has some leaflets from previous promotions, and asked whether it was possible to create a Facebook presence for LHNCC

7 AOCB

D Giles will invite Lindsay Grant to speak at the next LHNCC meeting about green spaces in Edinburgh

D Jones reported that there have been disturbances around the Sikh temple from fireworks, litter, vehicles being parked on pavements and vehicles' engines being left running for long periods. Cllr McVey noted the latter is an offence. H Ford noted that the coaches concerned deliver food to homeless people. A gentle approach to these problems was agreed. ACTION: CLLR McVEY TO FOLLOW THIS UP

8 Date of next meeting

September – actual date to be confirmed

Appendix 1 – text of emails about Commercial St/North Junction St junction

Having read the report, consulted with colleagues in our noise, road safety and design teams and representatives from Lothian Buses and visited the site I can comment accordingly.

- The area in question is the junction of the A199 (Lindsay Road /North Junction Street), the A901 (Commercial Street) and Ocean Drive (the main access road into Ocean Terminal).
- The junction was recently resurfaced using roads capital investment funding to improve the junction. This decision to undertake the work was agreed by the Council on the basis of a report to TIE committee on 29 November 2011 through the normal condition assessment and prioritisation criteria used to determine scheme priorities.
- No significant alterations were made to the junction as it was considered to be configured correctly and able to facilitate all turning manoeuvres and including potential increased pressure on the right turn manoeuvre from North junction Street into Commercial Street. We have however received another request regarding the installation of a dedicated right turn filter from North Junction Street to Commercial Street which our Signals section are currently assessing
- Having consulted colleagues in our Road Safety section, they have confirmed that there has been no increase in collisions at the junction since the resurfacing works have been carried out.
- Lothian Buses have also confirmed that they have encountered no difficulties at the junction since the works were carried out.
- As the traffic volumes have increased over the last ten years both generally and in particularly in the Ocean Terminal area, the likelihood of motorists visiting the area for the first time and subsequently being unfamiliar to the road layout will no doubt increase the uncertainty as to how to approach any junction. This can easily lead to frustration from those who are regular users of the area leading to frustration which unfortunately can lead to increased horn usage.

In light of the above I can only assume that instances of vehicle horn usage are as a result of inconsiderate or impatient driving and are not the result of any design failings on behalf of the council. However, it is my understanding that our signals section are currently investigating the possibility, in response to a separate enquiry, the possibility of additional green time (or possibly a filter) for the right turn from North Junction Street into Commercial Street.

Any increase in traffic levels at the above junction may partly due to increased traffic levels as a result of familiarity to the new restrictions on Shore making both the North Junction Street and Dock Place junctions with Commercial Street more attractive to vehicles which may have previously used Shore as a short cut to Bernard Street and beyond.