

MINUTES OF THE LEITH HARBOUR AND NEWHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING, **SHORE ROOM LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE, KIRKGATE, TUESDAY 26
April AT 7.00PM**

Those Present

Robert Weir	Chair
Allan Mackie	Secretary
Colin Brown	LHNCC
Jim Duff	LHNCC
Jennifer Marlborough	LHNCC
Arthur Young	LHNCC
Denise Jones	LHNCC
Neil Wilson	LHNCC
Michael Traill	Leith Links Community Council
Gillian Meek	Victoria Primary School
Cllr Adam McVey	Ex Officio member
Jack Caldwell	visitor
Gillian Paterson	visitor
Jonathan Paterson	visitor
Insp Alan Carson	Police Scotland
Sgt Andrew Johnson	Police Scotland

INTRODUCTIONS

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming new members to the community council and thanking them for their interest.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from, Fiona Burns, Heather Ford, Gordon Munro, Don Giles, Chas Booth, Stewart Auld, Evie Murray, Bonita Preacher, and David Naylor.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed to be an accurate record of the proceedings which were conducted on an informal basis due the Community council being inquorate at the time.

4 CALA PROPOSALS FOR LAND ADJACENT TO OCEAN TERMINAL

Allan Mackie reported that he and Don Giles had attended the consultation day at Ocean Terminal on 21 April. The following points had been re-iterated to Cala representatives.

- a) The loss of green space - CALA claimed that it was a brown field site anyway so no loss is incurred. It should be borne in mind however that the area around the old dock in front of the Scottish Office had been landscaped and an exercise circuit was added for community use.
- b) If the green space is to be sacrificed for residential use then Cala would be a suitable

developer as they usually produce good quality design and finish.

c) However based on the appearance of the design shown for the multi storey apartments we expected better from them. In the past CALA has been associated with quality finishes and good design. Don Giles asked if this was the first of the company moving into the budget market because it was Leith.

d) We questioned the number of parking spaces Indicated in relation to the number of properties planned. Cala assured that it met the planning guidance but it does not address the reality of the experience in other parts of Leith where insufficient provision causes great difficulty for other road users because of indiscriminate and dangerously obstructive parking. While the planning guidance may be correct to encourage residents to walk, cycle and use public transport by restricting parking provision, no one is taking responsibility for the change in behaviour that is needed to achieve this objective and more needs to be done by the developers whose developments so often result in large quantities of parked vehicles everywhere.

e) The plans shown in the consultation indicate a number of common pedestrian areas with a predominance of hard landscaping with limited planting of shrubs and small trees. With such high density housing in the 5/6/7 high rise blocks there is no ownership of these common areas and over time they become degraded and with accumulated rubbish, graffiti and suffer from inadequate maintenance. This has a knock effect on the area and undermines any feeling of security for the residents.

f) We raised the issue of "hot spots" below the surface of the proposed development area that had been identified by test drilling and were advised that there were probably quantities of hydrocarbons and asbestos buried there. We naturally raised concerns about how such contamination would be dealt with.

g) A number of actions arose from the discussion.

We should establish a sub group to steer the response to the Cala proposals.

It was agreed that the Secretary should invite Cala to address our next meeting In May.

Leaflets could be printed and distributed locally to encourage local participation in the meeting.

It was agreed that we should be looking carefully at the height of the buildings, the impact on the conservation area (former bonded warehouses on Commercial Street), and the preservation of the green space adjacent to Victoria Quay.

ACTIONS. **Chairman** will draft a flyer and the **Secretary** will investigate printing and distribution costs.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Covered by Secretary's report.

6 REPORTS

Police

There was a wide ranging discussion about the ongoing problem of not being permitted to have hard copies of the very broad and non-specific statistics provided by Police Scotland. It was explained that this would make the production of minutes easier.

Inspector Carson explained that this was not a local issue as such and indicated that he would take the matter up with senior officers. Sgt Johnson suggested that there was also a practical difficulty in that the police beats were not co-terminous with Community Council areas and that some additional work may be required to disaggregate statistics.

Inspector Carson underline however that the Leith area was “doing well” in terms of crime reduction and detection rates.

Secretary

Covered in item 4

Treasurer

As the Treasurer was unable to attend there was no Treasurer’s report. It was resolved that the authorised signatories in section 2 of the current mandate for the accounts should be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and that the current mandate will continue as amended. (Secretary’s note : Bonita Preacher has agreed to take up the post of Treasurer and will be designated an authorised signatory)

The Chairman will discuss the forthcoming Newhaven Children’s Gala with the school to ascertain what assistance we can provide now that the Community Council is again operational

Planning

16/01771/FUL and 16/01766/CON Aldi Dock Street

Both planning applications for Aldi at Dock Street (the second being because this is in a conservation area), have been registered and the deadline for comment is Friday 13th May.

It was agreed that we should not object to the development as proposed while noting that residents had expressed concerns about traffic and air quality issues, which are being addressed by Aldi.

Action

Secretary to respond

Planning Amendment 16/01845/AMC to original planning consent 15/02317/AMC

This includes a proposed eight additional flats, an amended number of car parking spaces and various associated changes to landscaping, building levels and basement areas at Land 50 Metres East Of 20, Newhaven Place, Edinburgh, EH6 4UJ

It was agreed that we should not raise any objection to this amendment

7 AOCB

There was no AOCB

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 May 2016