

Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council ordinary meeting, held at Persevere Room, Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate on Wednesday 1 April 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

Sandra Burns	LHNCC treasurer	Carolynn Bell	resident
Heather Ford	LHNCC	Don Giles	resident/FOWLB
George Johnston	LHNCC	Heather Milligan	resident
Evie Murray	LHNCC	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Robert Weir	LHNCC chair	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Neil Wilson	LHNCC (FOWLB rep)	PS Mark Coull	Police Scotland
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Jim Scanlon	Leith Links CC
Vicky Barr	resident		

1.2 Apologies for Absence

Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary	Cllr Gordon Munro	Leith ward (Labour)
George Rosie	resident	Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North & Leith (Labour)

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved *nem con*

3 Matters arising

3.1 Appointment of new treasurer

S Burns' resignation became effective. She has handed over books and information to the Chair. The formalities for new signatories on the CC chequebook require to await the appointment of a new treasurer. As well as normal book-keeping, LHNCC treasurer has been in the habit of helping with the Victoria Primary School Childrens' Gala and Christmas tree lighting.

No replacement was nominated.

3.2 Water of Leith Silt

As noted last meeting, SEPA has published the 560-page *Forth Estuary Local Plan District*, along with documents on coastal flooding. In total, 14,000 properties in the Forth Estuary area are potentially at risk, with an annual cost of £34 million (*Forth Estuary Flood Dev Plan 10_con_red2.pdf*, page 8). D Giles stated that Leith is not at high risk¹. There is a consultation on each Local Plan District – see <https://frm-scotland.org.uk> – and an online consultation, to which CCs may respond, at https://frm-scotland.org.uk/frmp/ph2_forth-estuary-lpd-10-draft-flood-risk-mana/consultation/subpage.2014-11-04.9422621250 ending 2 June 2015. Cllr McVey noted that Edinburgh Council had responded in March. It was also noted that some businesses around the Water of Leith have suffered increased insurance premiums due to potential flooding.

ACTIONS: D GILES AND G JOHNSTON TO FULLY READ SEPA'S DOCUMENTS, THEN REPORT TO LHNCC; B RYAN TO PUT REPORTS AND LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENTS ON LHNCC WEBSITE

3.3 Speeding on Ocean Drive

Members reported that this is an ongoing problem. Sgt Coull responded that Police Scotland (PS) had received fewer calls in March than in previous months. PS have asked the owners to close the car park in the evening, and have consulted with Edinburgh Council's community safety department – they have stated that relevant lamp-posts are unsuitable for camera installation. Sgt Coull also noted that PS does patrol the area, and stated that LHNCC should keep on reporting the issue.

¹ 3,300 residential properties and 480 non-residential properties [in the Water of Leith catchment area] are at a medium likelihood of flooding from one or more sources (*Forth Estuary Flood Dev Plan 10_con_red2.pdf*, page 360)

3.4 Custom House update

R Weir had attended a 'pre-meeting' to consider what matters might usefully be addressed at the Council meeting the following evening. He noted that subsequent to the meeting of the Council, and the decisions taken, the *Evening News* gave some positive coverage. E Murray noted that the Scottish Historical Buildings Trust (SHBT) and Out of the Blue (OOB) will lease the building for 5 years: they will then let parts of the space to 30-50 groups. OOB will handle this subletting which SHBT seeks funds for full renovation of the building. Cllr Booth noted that very few people were interested in renting parts. The building may hold an open day during the Edinburgh Festival or take part in doors-open day. It was noted that Edinburgh Council is considering making the building usable, then funding a feasibility study. (This will be decided by the Finance Committee on 13th May.) A full survey is needed, as is gathering information on possible exhibits.

It was also noted that access to the building may be problematic due to Forth Ports owning land immediately adjacent to the building. It is planned there will be ways for other local groups to be involved. There will be one more meeting of the museum working group. G Johnston stated that the group, headed by Una Richards, has legal, practical and fund-raising expertise.

H Ford called for more publicity transparency about who is doing what. D Giles noted that Cllr Lewis had originally requested confidentiality, but matters are now becoming more public and LHNCC will 'watch with interest'.

3.5 Future of liner terminal

R Weir has written to Forth Ports' port manager, asking for further information about what is planned. FP have not yet replied. It was noted that last year's 'dry-run' appeared to work well, and that Newhaven has plenty of harbour facilities and restaurants. However, liner use of Newhaven could become a big issue for LHNCC, so LHNCC wants to accurately inform its citizens and gauge their responses.

4 Reports

4.1 Police

4.1.1 Difficulties calling 101 and 999

Sgt Coull stated that improvements are being put in place to enable better responses to 101 calls. If the Bilston call centre becomes too busy, there will be failover to elsewhere. A dedicated service centre manager has been hired. Sgt Coull noted that in March the average time to answer a 999 call was 8 seconds but 101 calls were answered on average in 38 seconds, while there were 2500 'dropped' calls. He also noted that someone falsely dialled 999 69 times on 7 March. D Giles reported experiencing 15-20 seconds for answering 999 calls. H Ford reported difficulties using 101 to get to someone who could help with an issue. E Murray suggested that 101 had not had sufficient publicity but Sgt Coull responded that there had been a reasonable amount of publicity. G Johnston reported that calls to 101 while a theft was ongoing at Lambs' House were not answered. Sgt Coull responded that people should call 999 if they see crime occurring. **ACTION: SGT COULL WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AT LHNCC'S MAY MEETING.**

4.1.2 Drug dealing in LHNCC area, drink driving etc

H Ford reported on behalf of West Cromwell St, Persevere Court and Citadel Residents' Association that drugs are being dealt on the 1st and 17th floors of Persevere Court. Sgt Coull responded that witnesses should call PS so that they can get the relevant warrants based on 1st-hand evidence. However HF stated that residents were afraid to call PS – dealers would know who had called. Sgt Coull also suggested calling the community safety team or reporting in person at police stations. The chair requested increased police presence in relevant areas, while HF noted that concierge cover had been cut back and there were issues with CCTV. **ACTION: CLLR BOOTH TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING TEAM**

PC Fiona Brown is the new Ocean Terminal officer. Additional officers are now patrolling the current funfare.

During the 2014 festive season, 17504 drivers were stopped: 351 tested positive for alcohol. This is better than 2013 (20,646 drivers stopped, 35 positive). In 2014, 26 positives were detected the morning after drinking.

Sgt Coull noted that a PS helicopter is used to find missing persons and stolen cars.

4.1.3 Road junction between Lindsay Road, Ocean Drive, north Great Junction Street and Commercial Street

V Barr noted that there is much horn use, even at night, and that filtering right is difficult due to a very short light sequence. This has been a problem for over 10 years. J Scanlon reported that his car had been written off due to bad driving at this junction. H Ford reported much congestion on Thursdays and Fridays, while V Barr reported similar on Saturdays. Sgt Coull reported that this junction has its own traffic management – PS forward requests to them. They will work with roads bit of council. Cllr McVey suggested there were two issues: road layout and traffic

signals. Buses are wired into traffic-light management. N Wilson suggested that reconfiguration of the Shore and the Foot of Leith Walk may have contributed to the issue. D Giles stated that the junction is on the recommended route for HGVs. ACTIONS: **CLLR McVEY** TO REPORT TO RELEVANT OFFICIALS AND REQUEST A SITE VISIT, **V BARR** TO INFORM ON SPECIFIC TIMES OF HORN-ABUSE.

4.2 Secretary

D Giles reported that the Secretary had attended a meeting of the Edinburgh Association of CCs. It's October AGM had been postponed due to the EACC's chair becoming ill. (He has now resumed his duties.) There is online discussion of how CCs may use online to engage with citizens – see <https://basecamp.com/2876301/projects/8542726> and text of 'Click and Connect' document in appendix 2.

4.3 Treasurer, Events

Normal account balance £1,138.80. Special events account £35.03

4.3.1 Newhaven Childrens' Gala

R Weir is handling LHNCC's involvement with the Gala – S Burns has supplied him with relevant records. He requested assistance with this in future months. It was noted that LHNCC usually assists with costs of 1st aiders and insurance. R Weir is investigating whether the CC's insurance will cover the event.

DECISION: **LHNCC** TO CONTRIBUTE £300 TO THE GALA RUNNING COSTS.

ACTION: **LHNCC MEMBERS** TO CONSIDER WHO CAN HELP AT THE GALA

ACTION: **R WEIR** TO ASCERTAIN PAYEE FOR CHEQUE.

ACTION: **H MILLIGAN** TO CHECK ON PTA'S EXISTING INSURANCE

4.3.2 Centenary of Gretna crash

It was noted that the commemoration (23 May) will move from OOB on Dalmeny St at 10:15, arriving at Pilrig Cemetery. The three Leith CCs have been invited to lay wreaths because the victims were all from Leith. The Leith Trust and Royal Scots are co-ordinating the event – there will be a VVIP in attendance. ACTIONS: **LHNCC** TO SPEND UP TO £50 ON A WREATH, **H FORD** TO REPRESENT LHNCC.

4.4 Planning

LHNCC has submitted a comment on the proposed development at 2 Ocean Drive – see <http://lhncc.co.uk/2015/03/09/2-ocean-drive-lhnccs-submission>. This application is likely to go to committee.

ACTION: **N WILSON** TO CHASE UP

N Wilson noted that there were three applications that LHNCC members might follow up

- change of use of office (currently The Really Wild Tracel Company) at back of Citadel Ct to a flat
- subdivision of a flat in Seaport St
- a development at Tenant St, near the Gaelic School. Permission was granted earlier this year, despite ~30 objections. The developers have now applied for 'non-material variations' – no increase in the number of flats.

5 Complaint about road junction between Lindsay Road, Ocean Drive, north Great Junction Street and Commercial Street

See item 4.1.3 above

6 AOCB

6.1 Minutes

ACTION: **B RYAN** TO PROVIDE 1-PAGE SUMMARIES OF MINUTES FOR LHNCC MEMBERS TO PLACE ON LOCAL NOTICEBOARDS, SHOP WINDOWS, AND TO ADD BULLET POINTS TO POSTS ABOUT MINUTES

6.2 Printing anti-theft leaflets

It was asked whether the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership or Edinburgh Council might contribute to printing costs.

ACTIONS: **H FORD** TO ASK SAFER LEITH PARTNERSHIP, **J SCANLON** TO ASK EDINBURGH COUNCIL

6.3 Conservation area

A resident reported that a consultation on the conservation area would soon be published, and suggested that LHNCC should try to add the harbours into the conservation area.

7 Date of next meeting

6 May 2015

8 Appendix 2: text of 'Click and connect' document

EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS COLLECT AND CONNECT ('CnC')

Purpose

1. To propose that EACC establish a small group to look at options for using modern methods in:
 - o Training: providing material to assist Community Councils to deliver their functions
 - o Sharing best practice: helping Community Councils with day to day issues
 - o Building partnerships: the only game in town.
2. This proposal would be part of a wider set of actions, building on the Lancaster Report process, intended to improve the ability of all Community Councils to engage with and understand their communities (Collect) and use that knowledge to participate vigorously in the governance of the City (Connect).

Collect

3. The 46 Community Councils operate largely alone, but sometimes in association with neighbouring Community Councils in Neighbourhood Partnerships. There is no routine communication between the Community Councils so, although many issues are common to many areas, there is no mechanism for comparing notes and assembling a comprehensive view. This may affect the way in which our communities are represented – and risks a divide and rule attitude by the public authorities.
4. There is a huge variation in the capacity and knowledge of Community Councils. Expertise is gathered rapidly, often in a crisis, in dealing with, for example, some kinds of planning or licensing issues but too much depends on elephant's memory and the serendipitous availability of expertise. This leads to calls for training – when, in reality, buddy experience and a repository of case studies may be more effective than traditional half day courses, often at too general a level to be of much help.
5. Increasingly, the process of community engagement and consultation has to be done quickly in which the traditional public meetings have little place, and seldom get much grip on the views of the community as a whole. The "same old faces" is no longer good enough. Some Community Councils have embraced social media, electronic surveys and so on through which they can secure a robust and defensible feel for the view of the community in less than a week.
6. The pace of government at all levels has increased immensely and the Community Council needs to keep up if it is to be an effective voice for its community.

Connect

7. Broadcasting of information by paper newsletters and notices in libraries fails to engage younger people, when the same idea pushed out through social media can go 'viral', exciting interest and debate.
8. The City Council is moving to a portal/Channel approach to delivery of services and the Locality² programme means that many more decisions will be taken close to the community and quickly. Already submitting comment on planning applications by letter means avoiding the preferred portal system. A Community Council may rail against this, futilely, and risks being sidelined. 'Be there or be square' was a 50s motto – still relevant today.

Proposal

9. A small group of people with capacity and expertise should be assembled to report to a forum of all Community Councils. Strong efforts must be made to engage the 'missing' Community Councils in this process – some of them are in the forefront, well ahead of EACC regulars.
10. The group would examine best practice from relevant fields in Collect and Connect (and the third sector has much to offer). It would:
 - o engage directly with the City Council's developing programmes, centred for example on BOLD³ and Localities, to identify ways in which robust and useful links could be established.
 - o identify areas of learning required and best practice in delivering them
 - o examine the capacity of Edinburgh Community Councils to engage with their communities and identify generic ways in which this could be improved.
 - o propose how new systems might be resourced
 - o report formally by the end of October and provide interim reports to avoid surprises.

Possible Sources of Information and Assistance

- o <http://www.communitycouncils.org.uk>
- o Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
- o MILO project City of Edinburgh Council

² Locality: the CEC programme for delivering the bulk of services from 4 hubs - decentralisation

³ BOLD: Better Outcomes, Leaner Delivery – a CEC programme to make savings of £67-108million