

## **Chairman's Report**

**2022-2023**

As another year draws to a close it is time to reflect on the past, to our work with the present and to look to the future.

As I look to the year past I extend a very warm and heartfelt thanks to all our members for their attendance at our online and hybrid meetings and their commitment to the LHNCC business. I would also thank our Leith Ward Councillors, Adam McVey, Chas Booth and Katrina Faccenda for their support and involvement in those meetings and their taking away issues raised for further research and resolution. Working together for Leith is a challenge but can also be rewarding.

We have a following of local residents and others that have joined us over the year not just to complain but to offer us support in our work. Thanks for all your thoughts and contributions expressed.

We managed our meetings over the year as 'hybrid' when we could using the facilities at OT Management Suite but for technical reasons we had to revert to our 'on-line' option using our new laptop on a few occasions. Our April meeting was held at Heart of Newhaven and was 'in person' only. A new venue for us and we hope to return here sometime in the autumn. We continue to look at attendance at our meetings and this AGM is the first at Customs House.

This is also a time to say our 'goodbyes'. We said goodbye and all the best to Stewart Auld who had served with us for a number of years. A reminder that our circumstances can change over the years and that we do have personal lives to lead beyond considering Planning, Licensing and all other statutory and non- statutory working. We wish him well in his new home in Fife and hope that we will hear from him from time to time. He introduced us to a potential new member in Gerry Rooney whose background in managing a large resident's group and producing a fortnightly newsletter had a particular appeal. Sadly Gerry was to be with us for only a few months when a significant change in his personal circumstances meant that he could no longer give us the commitment that he felt membership would require and again we thank him for the guidance that he gave in the meetings that he was able to attend and take this opportunity to wish him all the best for the future.

The trams were up and running a fortnight earlier than expected and gives us all a choice of transport into town and beyond to the airport. Who said that there was 'no demand' and 'people would not use the tram', it seems to be standing room only when I have used it. Snagging works will dominate the coming months but it all looks quite impressive although some issues have arisen with regards to bus stops, cycle ways and signage which we hope can be resolved in the weeks ahead.

The works around the CPZ and LTN are now well established as we are surrounded by yellow lines on our roadways although fortunately there are now quite a few more benches to sit on to relieve our exhaustion as a result of the LTN affecting local traffic management meaning busier other streets. (CPZ = Controlled Parking Zone and LTN = Low Traffic Neighbourhood for those unfamiliar). While much of this has not been introduced with controversy we do hope that it will work for the community in the months and years ahead. We will none the less monitor all aspects of both schemes as to their effectiveness.

Then there are the proposed developments of housing etc. at whatever stage they are at in the planning process. The need for Social Housing remains top of our list as ever, changes to Short Terms letting may ease the pressure a bit over the months ahead.

The sympathetic development of what remaining open and green spaces has featured in our consultations and we hope that the longer term plans towards Edinburgh 2050 being proposed will make Leith a more attractive place to live and work in well beyond the middle of the century.

Net Zero Edinburgh 2030 will be more of a challenge than originally thought, we do seem to be losing sight of this which is a concern.

Perhaps the most significant news over the year has been the change in status of the Port of Leith operated by Forth Ports which will now bring significant developments in servicing the renewable energy sector with new jobs and investment. Just how the future residents in developments directly on the harbour front, now called Dockside, Ocean Point 2 and the new OT, will cope with the increase in activity only a few hundred metres away remains to be seen. Timing of events can often be very critical to their success as history has so often proved.

The Leith Gala day as part of our Leith Festival brought out the crowds to The Links and the weather looked kindly upon us. Working with our neighbours at Leith Links CC we invited those attending to comment upon the new LTN and CPZ in order to get an up to date picture of the reality we have imposed upon us. The following weekend and to close the Leith Festival we saw the return of our 'local lads' The Proclaimers and by all accounts this was yet again a success where the 'sun shone' on Leith at least for most of the time.

We take our summer break in July although we will function over this period as we have always done in the past until we meet again in August. Nothing stands still in Leith

Let me end this short report as always with a wish that we can all stay safe and stay well. Look after your families, friends and your neighbours and welcome our visitors whether they arrive on foot, by bicycle, tram or from the sea. See you again in August.

Douglas J Tharby

Chair

LHNCC

27<sup>th</sup> June, 2023