

# Text of Secretary's report for 2022-23

This year has been busy as return to some normality following constraints during and following COVID restrictions have eased.

## 1 Planning

We have followed some large and complex planning applications this year, both within our own community council boundary and sometimes within our neighbours at Leith Links Community Council (LLCC) and Leith Central Community Council (LCCC).

We responded to several Pre Application consultations that are currently still at CEC assessment stage and awaiting FUL applications that we can be officially responded to. These include Rennie's Isle, Harbour 31, Ocean Terminal Phase 2, Ocean Point 2, Dockside that are controversial. They all include predominance of Build to Rent (BTR) and Intermediate Rent (IMR).

We responded with objection letters that include Salamander Street/Bath Road (G Russell approved 22), St.John's Place (withdrawn 2023), 139 Leith Walk (approved May 2023). We supported Ocean Terminal Phase 1 (approved 2022), Teuchters Landing and Victoria Bridge restoration work (approved 2022), Linksvie House (approved 2022), Aparthotel Water Street (Under review 2023), Coalie Park (approved 2023)

We are currently monitoring all of above applications and supporting major application in adjacent Community Councils and responding appropriately. These have included Salamander St. and Leith Walk. I represented LHNCC in deputation regarding the preservation of listed status of the Bingo Hall in Manderston Street.

Some of these applications, included ones that have been approved, may be affected following implementation of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) on 13 February 2023 to ensure they comply with the relevant policies, the Local Development Plan and associated guidance. Deputations from Community Councils who have responded to applications affected will be invited to attend Development Management Sub-Committee to comment. I attended on behalf of LHNCC regarding Salamander Street/Bath Road, Edinburgh, EH6 7JZ application returning to Committee on 7 June 2023. We are currently monitoring all of above applications and supporting major application in adjacent Community Councils and responding appropriately.

## 2 General

It has been an interesting and busy year, with many opportunities to engage with our community and wider neighbours attending local events, working to develop and expand our networks and representing the community council at many Leith community initiatives.

We missed the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in December but hopefully it will be reinstated in December this year.

We also responded to several consultations participated in workshops, briefings and training events provided this year.

It was lovely to have the return of Newhaven Gala Day back on 27 May with crowning of the Queen at Heart of Newhaven.

The completion of Tram line that went live on 7 June

Visiting the Saturday Market also continues to be popular and a great way to meet people and friends.

### **3 Environment**

SOSLeith have been very active regarding Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs) in the Water of Leith Basins and provided reports at our meetings.

Thriving Green Spaces - For this, we are working with Atkins, Landscape Architects, to create an overall plan for the area - to look at actions to connect greenspaces in Leith, specifically drawing up plans for 6 parks:

- Tolbooth Wynd
- Mill Lane Park
- Taylor Gardens
- Keddie Gardens
- North Junction Street Park
- Dalmeny Street Park

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/linking-leiths-parks>.

### **4 Transport**

#### **4.1 CCTT**

LHNCC continued to work in coalition with other Leith community councils under the 'Community Councils Together On Trams' (CCTT) initiative. This has been a very effective route for the questioning of Tram plans, the representation of community concerns, and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges for all. We had final meeting on 9 June, after 5 years of monthly meetings, and celebrated the line going open on 7th. June and also asked for assurance regarding completion of hard landscaping and snagging management that is ongoing.

#### **4.2 EBUG**

We continue to meet regularly and have 6 monthly meetings with Lothian Buses that are valuable AGM held on 21 June 2023 - Scott Arthur was Guest speaker and provided interesting information and answered question from the floor. Main concerns relating to change/Cancellation of bus routes and no facility for consultation with Lothian Buses.

#### **4.3 Leith Connections - LTN, CPZ and TROs**

Concerns continue regarding above, particularly relating to some of the road closures, poor signage, traffic congestion and issues for elderly, disabled and Carers regarding permits, mobility, and accessibility. Further information available on website <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/leithconnections>.