



# Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

## Final minutes

Tuesday 27th May, 2025

18:30–20:30

Leith Community Centre

### Present:

AY	Arthur Young	CB	Chas Booth (Ward Councillor)
CH	Connal Hughes	DF	David Fenton
DG	Don Giles	DT	Douglas Tharby
ED	Elaine Dick (Meeting Chair)	JC	Jonathan 'Geo' Camp
IK	Isabel Kane	IM	Ian McCormack
JM	Joanne McClelland	JR	Jason Ran
MPH	Morgane Perez-Huet	NT	Neil Tulloch
VB	Viktorya Budre	MP1	Member of the public 1

### Apologies:

ANM	Adam Nols McVey (Ward Councillor)	AE	Avril Ewing
KF	Katrina Faccenda (Ward Councillor)	MW	Margaret Wright

### Distribution: Present and apologies

Item		Who
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
1.1	All present introduced themselves.	-
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of interests</b>	
2.1	ED noted she has an interest in the Planning Application associated with the campaign group Save Western Harbour Ponds.	-
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of 15th April 2025 meeting</b>	
3.1	DT proposed the minutes of the last Council meeting and JC seconded them.	-
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	7A3. JC noted that there is nothing to comment on the Leith School of Art planning application, so nothing to report in the meeting. Action discharged.	-
4.2	7A4 JC reported that both planning responses were complete and submitted Friday afternoon. DT noted that there are 2,200 STLs in Leith, which has a particularly high proportion when compared to the rest of the city.	-
4.3	7A4 IM asked what working group terms of reference might be for a working group. ED noted the proposed session for governance to agree terms of reference and working groups that she has proposed. See note later.	ED
4.4	7A5. ED noted this is to be covered later.	-
4.5	The Tram report that was not received by all prior to the last meeting was discussed. CB confirmed that EW's form is now submitted, meaning her email will be live, allowing correspondence to reach her.	-
4.6	Cruise ship levy was going to be submitted.	

4.7	IS noted that the objection he had drafted was circulated just to DT and has since been submitted.	-
4.8	DT outlined the function of the Community safety panel on the Partnership board (NHS, Police, University Sector, NFP sector, SFRS, EACC), which gives an opportunity for the CC to make comments or concerns. DT confirms that he will pass antisocial behaviour reports made in CC meetings to the partnership board.	DT
4.9	CB notes that he has made an error with MPH and IK's forms when submitting to CEC returning offers team. CB confirms he has now done it. MPS's is now sorted, IK needs action by her.	IK
<b>5.</b>	<b>Residents' Issued</b>	
5.1	ED confirmed that none were received.	-
<b>6.</b>	<b>Police Report</b>	
6.1	ED noted that this has been circulated prior to the meeting. No comments were made regarding it.	-
<b>7.</b>	<b>Standing Items and Updates</b>	
<b>7a.</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Licensing</b>	
7a.1	Local Place Plan for LHNCC. JM noted that she has reached out to LCCC and LLCC who agreed to participate. JM also spoke to the Leith Place Based Network who work with many members of the Leith 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector, and are also keen to be involved. And Leith Chamber of Commerce who will reach out to their members. JM asked how the governance for the exercise should go. ED suggested this be discussed at the internal meeting. DT has spoke with Paul Lawrence who confirmed that it is to be Autumn. Jason also interested. JM to work via emails.	JM
7a.2	On Friday ED noted that JM, MPH and ED will meet with FoWLB to speak to them about LPP.	
7a.3	Seafield Masterplan. NT reported that the group met on Wednesday last week for draft submission of masterplan, and that it has been discussed and tweaked since. NT reported that the final submission has been made to CEC this morning on behalf of the Seafield Group. CCs can make their own submissions, but NT doesn't think LHNCC will need to. NT noted that a sounding board meeting is scheduled for 18 <sup>th</sup> June that will report on the outcome of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> public consultation, but the steps after that are not known. NT noted he had made it clear that communities want to be involved in whatever follows, particularly to fill the void of community in this area of the city. ED noted wider activity around this topic. NT to share the submission with the CC.	NT
7a.4	Short term lets. ED confirmed LHNCC will object to all, as per the agreement at the last meeting. JC noted that two more have been applied for. JC noted there is a template response that can be tailored. JC to make responses to the latest applications.	JC
7a.5	CB noted that STLs will not be granted a license unless they have Planning Permission, or have applied for it. CB noted that most retrospective applications will apply for the license first, before the Planning, but that it is not uncommon to get license and not planning. CB noted that the license lasts a year, and if no Planning Permission by then , the renewal of the license is refused. For those with license but no planning, LHNCC could search for enforcements, and if there is not one, then request enforcement by the Planners. CB noted that there are three different types of license, and the one to look for is 'secondary letting', which does need Planning.	-



	brief. CB noted that Custom House is owned by the Common Good Fund, with a long lease to SHBT. Isabelle & CB to send paperwork to JM for review.	
7d.2	ED proposed Custom House to be kept as a standing item. All agreed.	ED
<b>7e.</b>	<b>Community</b>	
7e.1	DT noted that Leith Festival is late this year, and that the Gala day will be the 14 <sup>th</sup> of June. DT noted that the three CCs will get a stand together which will be manned on the day, 10am to 3:30pm. ED asked if there are specific objectives. Dt noted children's activities. DT looking for a theme, perhaps transport links. Looking for a volunteer to cover lunch. MPH and ED offered to cover.	DT
7e.2	JM noted a separate stand for the Place Plan has been booked, where Eala will look for people to fill in survey, make comment on the big map, and participate in a scavenger hunt. MPH to assist.	JM
7e.3	JM suggested that LHNCC could explain what they do, and have material about this. DT confirmed he has flyers. MPH offered to update the flyer. ED to send on the live document.	ED
7e.4	Leith chooses. DT reported that he is standing down from Leith Chooses Steering Group, and is looking for someone else to take it on. DT is now on the visitor levy board representing EACC. DG is on Leith Chooses Steering Group for FOWL, JR will step forward. IK noted a conflict with the benevolent trust. MPH agreed to do every other meeting. DT confirmed they meet every Wednesday at Macdonald Road library. Next meeting is the 28 <sup>th</sup> of May.	JR/ MPH
7e.5	DT gave the background to Leith Chooses. DT to circulate background to JR and MPH.	DT
7e.6	Leith Community Centre. DT reported that the Prince of Wales attended as there will be a new lease, and the Royal Foundation will have a role going forward along with Street Soccer and YMCA, and others. DT noted that there will be an investment in the building, council will attend to backlog maintenance.	-
7e.7	DT reported that the owners of the rest of the Kirkgate (New River) are planning to refurbish and develop, including a new lift.	-
<b>8.</b>	<b>Councillor/MSP/MP responses and updates</b>	
8.1	CB noted apologies from KF and ANM.	-
8.2	CB reported the decision today at Policy & Sustainability committee, where officers recommended a private company route in the delivery of heat networks across the city. CB noted deputations from various organisations looking for a community owned route. CB noted 4 party agreement to look at this again.	-
8.3	CB noted that CEC agreed to welcome carers from overseas, with 4 party agreement, given the specific needs of Edinburgh, and recognising the benefits immigration brings to Scotland. CEC to write to UK Govt.	-
8.4	CB reiterated transport committee activity as noted above.	-
8.5	CB outlined local traffic improvement projects, which are small projects. CB noted this is an annual programme, where anybody can submit a proposal. CB submitted a proposal for Portland Street, which was agreed, involving widening of footways and	-

	increase in pedestrian crossings.	
8.6	CB also had a motion agreed around speeding up active travel projects. In response CEC are looking at staffing and finance.	-
8.7	CB reported the full council meeting of the on 8 <sup>th</sup> of May. CB noted lots of discussion on supreme court decision on meaning of 'woman'. CB noted CEC waiting on CoP from Equalities and human rights commission, noting they have to consult. CB noted that interim guidance was rushed out, so CEC are holding off acting on this, giving more time taken to consider.	-
8.8	CB noted the Seafield stakeholder group activity as reported above. Scottish Water have not done anything to cause the additional odour, so they suspect it is the dry weather. CEC looking at what can be done about that.	-
8.9	CB noted the consultation from CEC on affordable housing policy. Deadline 23 <sup>rd</sup> of July. ED noted that the CC may respond. ED to speak to Avril.	ED
8.10	CB explained 'commuted sum' for affordable housing process. JM suggested spending it on vacant properties. CB to review and reply. David asked if this is separate to Section 106. CB confirmed it is.	CB
<b>9.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
9.1	DT noted nothing to report. DT to report at next meeting, and that office bearers are to have a meeting on this.	DT
<b>10.</b>	<b>Community Council Internal/Governance meeting</b>	
10.1	ED attended the induction event on 12 <sup>th</sup> of May. ED described the agenda. Presentations will be distributed by ED and will review at internal governance meeting. ED noted that LHNCC's logistics are in place. DT noted a recording of the meeting will be sent out.	ED
10.2	ED noted that treasurer can be a record keeper too, instead of the Secretary.	-
10.3	CC membership and co-option was discussed. VB offered co-option. VB noted her technology background. NT proposed, MPH and JM seconded. All agreed to VB's membership of the CC. CB to manage submission of VB's forms.	CB
10.4	JR asked who is managing social media. ED noted no one is at present. ED noted this to be discussed at the governance meeting.	ED
<b>11.</b>	<b>Key diary dates ahead of next meeting</b>	
11.1	Leith Jazz & Blues – June 6 <sup>th</sup> to June 8 <sup>th</sup> .	-
11.2	Gala Day – 14 <sup>th</sup> of June.	-
<b>12.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
12.1	IM noted he had drafted a response to the cruise ship levy. Deadline is 30 <sup>th</sup> of May, noting it has been separated out from the visitor levy. CB noted CEC signed off their response today: they supported the principle, and that it be implemented in a way that Local Authorities can penalise particularly polluting cruise ships, and other negative impacts. CB to circulate CEC's response. CB noted that Edinburgh received 117 port calls, with 192,000 passengers, and that the most in a day was 6,000. SG have not committed to implementing it. IM suggested going with CEC's response. ED noted the need to improve the terminal, and that this may go into LHNCC response.	ED/MPH

	CH noted the range of options outlined in the consultation. NT queried if this is something the CC should be responding to. JM & MPH think CC should. JM noted the Place Plan could help with this role. ED and MPH to review IM's draft and CEC's response.	
12.2	Ed noted that the internal governance meeting can clarify how social media is to be managed to assist with consultations.	-
12.3	JM noted that doors open day in September could also be a day for consultation.	-
12.4	JC asked who owned the listed cranes at Forth Ports, and the nearby trees. JC noted the trees have been severely cut, and was wondering how to investigate. ED to speak with Alistair Sibbald at Forth Ports.	ED
12.5	ED to invite Alistair Sibbald to attend LHNCC and give a brief presentation.	ED
12.6	DG confirmed he has put in application as special interest group and is now a community counsellor.	-
12.7	ED asked everyone to fill in the Doodle Poll for the internal governance meeting.	ALL

**Next Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June, same venue, same time.**

**Selected Acronyms used:**

CC – Community Council  
CEC – City of Edinburgh Council.  
FoWLB – friends of Water of Leith Basin  
HMO – House of Multiple Occupation.  
LHNCC – Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council  
LLCC – Leith Links Community Council  
LCCC – Leith Central Community Council  
LPP – Local Place Plan  
PBSA – Purpose Built Student Accommodation.  
SHBT – Scottish Historic Buildings Trust  
SG – Scottish Government.  
STL – Short Term Lets.