



Present:

CB	Chas Booth (Ward Councillor)	CH	Connal Hughes
DG	Don Giles	DT	Douglas Tharby
ED	Elaine Dick (Meeting Chair)	IM	Ian McCormack
IK	Isabel Kane	JC	Jonathan 'Geo' Camp
JM	Joanne McClelland	KF	Katrina Faccenda (Ward Councillor)
NT	Neil Tulloch	VB	Viktorya Budre
MW	Margaret Wright	MP1	Member of the public 1
SC	Shona Clarke, CEC	RW	Ruth White, CEC

Apologies:

ANM	Adam Nols McVey (Ward Councillor)	AE	Avril Ewing
AY	Arthur Young	DF	David Fenton
JR	Jason Ran	MPH	Morgane Perez-Huet

Distribution: Present and apologies

Item		Who
1.	Introductions & Apologies	
1.1	All present introduced themselves.	-
2.	Declaration of interests	
2.1	IK noted that she is a member of Leith Civic Trust (LCT), which has an interest in Custom House.	-
2.2	CH noted that he works for Friend of the Earth Scotland.	
3	Minutes of 15th April 2025 meeting	
3.1	NT proposed and JM seconded the minutes of the 24th of June 2025.	
3.2	CH volunteered to put the minutes on the website.	CH
3.3	DT noted that he attends the community safety panel and passes on antisocial behaviour complaints. DT did not attend the meeting this morning (26/08) due to break down in communications. DT to follow up at the next meeting of the board.	DT
3.4	KF noted she had an action RE the proposed closure of Marionville Fire Station to pass on the population density of Leith. KF to follow up.	KF
3.5	NT was going to raise the closure of Marionville Fire Station at Seafield group. NT confirmed he did so. NT notes there is now a public consultation, which everyone should have received. NT suggests everyone give a response to the consultation.	All
3.6	JM was going to draft a letter to Ben Macpherson about the Marionville Fire Station. JM to follow up. JM asked if the assessment of the building had been published. KF noted a vague one had been published. KF notes that the report is high level. KF suggests a Freedom of Information request be submitted. DT noted he spoke to Ben Macpherson at Gala day, but the timeline was not clear at that point. CH noted a	JM

	protest by Living Rent at Craigentiny community centre on the 2 nd of September.	
3.7	ED to update the objection to the development of Western Harbour Ponds. ED noted she did this and sent on the planning department. ED notes the next stage is for it to go to committee in the autumn. KF notes that there are not dates yet. KF also wrote the subcommittee chair to arrange a site visit, but the chair did not accept this suggestion.	Note
3.8	VB to circulate the link for reporting signage, in reference to the works on Henderson Street.	VB
3.9	JC confirmed he has circulated the SEPA consultation.	Note
3.10	ED noted the refurbishment of Custom House is to be added to the agenda.	ED
3.11	Regarding Leith Connections, KF noted she is to check where trees are to be planted and to feed back. KF noted that much tree work has been done badly. KF and ED to follow up with CEC.	KF/ED
3.12	JM to update KF about Leith primary School play equipment.	JM
3.13	ED noted the internal meeting information was sent out, and gave thanks to all who helped. ED confirmed that all have received full minutes, and roles and responsibilities.	Note
3.14	Programme for EACC meeting to be circulated by DT when it is published. 11 th of October is conference day at city chambers. Meeting on Thursday this week, with a focus on community wealth building. DT to circulate the invite. JM suggested bullet points to be brought together to respond to the consultation. JM to manage.	DT JM
3.15	DT noted that he will fill in on tasks if required.	Note
4.	Matters Arising from previous minutes	
4.1	ED noted that a local resident living near the cruise terminal has reported disturbance from the Tannoy announcements and pollution from the ships. ED and MW concurred that this is an issue for those who live nearby. KF noted that she has written to Forth Ports about this. Forth Ports replied saying this was a mandatory announcement, and has reminded all ships to avoid announcements during antisocial hours. ED noted that the local MP has been invited to the meeting but didn't attend. CB noted that Environmental Health department investigated and reported. CH noted the offending ship won't be back in Edinburgh soon according to its itinerary.	Note
5.	Salamander Street Air Quality Action Plan consultation: presentation to LHNCC and discussion	
5.1	SC circulated the Salamander Street air quality action plan and gave a presentation about it. SC noted that this has been given to a range of stakeholders. SC noted they were looking for feedback.	Note
5.2	SC noted that it is an obligation of CEC to monitor air pollution, and if over certain limits then to investigate and make a plan. This report is on the particulate levels. SC noted that Leith has two Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AMQAs), one for PM10 and one for NO2. The PM10 one is centred on Salamander Street.	Note
5.3	SC reported that annual mean concentrations are shown to have decreased over time and are now below the 'objective level'. A new monitoring station at Tower	Note

	Street has though shown an increase. SC noted that the measurement units are microgrammes per cubic metre, which can be converted to parts per million, and that daily concentrations show a spike at Tower Street in 2024, breaching the objective level.	
5.4	SC stated that the purpose of the action plan is to work towards meeting stat air quality objectives. Sources are shown to be industry, domestic, and brake and tyre-wear. SC noted the amount of planned new housing in the area.	Note
5.5	SC reported that mapping shows the particles leading to breaching the objective level came from demolition of a building on constitution street. Other risk sources are the Port and 'unregulated activities', and traffic.	Note
5.6	SC talked through the action list and a range of questions for the CC to discuss. SC wants to set up a forum with Forth Ports and developers to manage complaints around emissions and air quality.	Note
5.7	DG asked how Leith compare with the city centre. SC replies that the LEZ is targeting NO2, rather than particulates. ED asked if the monitoring area will be extended towards Forth Ports, and if shipping is included in Transport. SC notes a new station will be placed near Ocean Terminal due to new build in this area.	Note
5.8	EK asked how dangerous is NO2 and PM. And if this has come down in the city centre, would an LEZ be put in in Leith? SC noted that the mix of both is not good, but not as bad as PM2.5. SC noted that it's something we have to address. VB asked if any communication to the community due to the breach? SC agreed that the current proposed Know and Respond scheme is to be improved.	Note
5.9	CB asked if the Salamander St monitoring station is the only one specific to PM. SC noted there was one in Pathhead due to coal burning, but it was removed when gas came in; and that there is one in Grangemouth. Glasgow has declared the whole city as a PM10 zone.	Note
5.10	DG asked about dust management at Baltic Street site. SC noted that through the Planning consent they may have been asked to meet certain conditions, but that they are proposing that all sites have this condition.	Note
5.11	SC noted the idea of a forum. JM noted that developers may pay lip service to this, so a forum could hold them accountable. JM noted that pre-works construction phase plan lodged with the local authority could be requested. JM also noted focus on design for deconstruction to avoid dust release in the future. JM noted this could be brought into the urban design panel.	Note
5.12	IK asked if the Tower Street monitoring station showed such high levels, should any such sites proceed in such a densely populated areas? Should CEC be warning nearby residents? SC said that data this year is looking borderline and that there have been no complaints. VB suggests CC should be proactive. SC suggested we avoid being alarmist. DT noted the risk of particulate and relation to childhood asthma.	Note
5.13	DT asked about emissions from vehicles, and asked if these figures would reduce due to move to EVs. SC noted that all sectors are working to reducing emissions.	Note
5.14	CH asked if the plan is just enforcing existing rules? What is CEC doing to enforce existing rules by existing operators like Forth Ports? SC noted that an application for an industrial process will result in the council being informed, but that it will be	Note

	permitted in areas zoned for industrial use. SC noted ongoing discussions with Forth Ports about the data being recorded, and improving relationships.	
5.15	JC noted the need for repercussions for a developer who breaches the emissions, then it will not result in a change in behaviour. SC notes this if it were a planning condition, then there would be repercussions.	Note
5.16	ED asked who would be in the proposed forum. SC suggested it would be local stakeholders, but agreed Forth Ports should be on it. JC suggested FOWLb. VB suggested vulnerable health groups. SC suggested Friends of the Earth Scotland.	Note
5.17	JM noted parents for future as a stakeholder. JM noted that Place Based policies should mean a connection to mortgages, which perhaps would result in mortgage lenders and insurers to bringing in financial impacts.	Note
5.18	JM noted the proposed green port and shipping emissions means that the money from the cruise ship levy should stay in Leith as the damage is happening in Leith.	Note
5.19	ED asked how to feed back further. ED suggested the CC go through the categories of actions and feed back more detailed noted. ED suggested it could come into the Place Plan. SC noted that CEC Environmental Health publish an annual report. CB suggested SC speak to LLCC.	Note
6.	Police Report	
6.1	DT has circulated a report for June and has asked the police to attend the meeting. ED read out a summary showing 272 calls in total.	Note
6.2	JM noted the some of the feedback in the Place Plan Survey 1 around concerns for safety on the street. ED suggested using this as a reason to get the Police back in. JM to send a summary of the Place Plan feedback.	JM
6.3	IK asked for something to compare this report to, to give context. JM suggested putting lists next to each other. DT raised caution about the lack of resource of the police. ED to go back to the Police with the Place Plan findings, to request they attend, and ask for them to reconfigure the report to allow cross-comparability across reporting periods.	ED
7.	Standing Items and Updates	
7a.	Planning & Licensing	
7a.1	RBS building on Bernard Street. Ian reported CC objected to the application alongside LLCC. IM has circulated the objection. Since then, there has been 3 objections to STLs, which have also been circulated. IM noted 22 Bernard Street has been approved, but this was prior to the CC's standing policy. IM to monitor the applications we have objected to and update the CC.	IM
7a.2	JM noted place Plan Survey 1 feedback supports LHNCC position on PBA and STL.	Note
7a.3	JC noted how useful it is to read decision letters to take the lessons for other applications.	Note
7a.4	CB noted that if CC object and ask to be a statutory consultee, then it has to go to committee. IM noted that he hasn't put that in, in other objections. CB suggests that be added to every objections. If there are no planning reasons, then committee won't come to a different decision. CB also suggests LHNCC publicise their objections to get others to object. CB noted that STL are putting in letters of support. CB suggests using social media channels. JM suggests naming streets in the publicity. CB	Note

	noted that if neighbour notifications have been issued, then CEC will extend the deadline. DG noted that we should also only object on material considerations. All noted that there is a framework on this basis being used by IM.	
7a.5	ED noted the Harbour 31 development which is going to hearing, when the developed presented to CC we were supportive. ED asked if there are any comments. CH noted the AMQA issues could be a reason. ED noted the Vestas in place. The hearing is in September. ED to ask if anyone will attend to support.	ED
7a.6	MW noted that we need more training on Planning processes. DT noted that the training was meant to have been circulated, though JC pointed out it was still to be sent. DT to chase up.	DT
7a.7	NT reported a Seafield sounding board, which didn't include much. NT reported that CEC officers are still digesting consultation responses, and will report by the end of this year. NT noted that it is not progressing quickly. NT noted that Buccleuch Estates are marketing a car showroom on Seafield Road for £2.7m.	Note
7b.	Transport	
7b.1	JC noted he is in contact with Miles who is running the Hawthornvale link project, and that the Sandport works finished by the end of the year.	Note
7b.2	Floating bus stops were discussed.	Note
7b.3	ED noted an email from a member of the public who lives nearby to the works noting queries over loss of trees.	Note
7b.4	DT to raise these points at EBug. DT asked for comments. DT noted that EBug meeting next Monday. JM noted the request for a costal bus in the Place Plan survey. JM to write to DT.	JM
7b.5	ED to raise speeding eBikes with Police.	ED
7b.6	NT noted that Tollbooth Wynd is now a two-way street, but that the physical barrier has been removed. CB noted that the bollard has been vandalised and replaced numerous times. CB to raise this with the housing team who are connected to this issue.	CB
7b.7	ED noted CCTT meeting tomorrow will include an update of the snag list, though sadly the Trams team are on leave. ED to update by email.	ED
7c.	Environment and greenspace/bluespace	
7c.1	FOWLb – nothing was raised.	Note
7d.	Community	
7d.1	Leith Chooses. DG noted that applications are open, waiting to get them back. DT pointed people to the website, which lists ideas for the future.	Note
7d.2	JM to put in a bid to exhibit the Place Plan feedback. DG noted voting day January.	Note
8.	Councillor/MSP/MP responses and updates	
8.1	KF noted the tram consultation is open for the next phase of building, open for 12 weeks from yesterday.	Note
8.2	KF noted a meeting to be set up to review the condition of the streets. KF noted the poor condition of the Kirkgate. KF asked for top 10 dirty spots to add into the	Note

	discussion.	
8.3	KF noted that EdIndex has remained suspended to solve CEC legal problems with people in unsuitable accommodation. KF noted the problems this is causing.	Note
8.4	KF noted the removal of the benches at the bottom of the Walk. CB noted the expects the benches to go back on Monday. CB noted the process was not right, there was no acknowledgement of the problems it would cause for people with limited mobility. CB notes constant pressure on CEC officers, and a proposal for an emergency meeting of council. CB noted the benches as a symptom, not a cause, and that support for vulnerable people should be put in place. KF noted that Turning Point do a lot of street work, but that there are no easy answers. MW noted the actions of a local church reaching out to the people who congregate in this area.	Note
8.5	CB noted the licensing board on Monday reviewed the Leith Social Club, which was rejected after complaints. Currently operating under occasional licenses.	Note
8.6	CB noted the cycle hire scheme will go live from the 3 rd of September. However it is unlikely to come to Leith soon, as it is starting in the city centre. CB noted it is a two-year pilot, and at which point CEC should put money into it to extend around the city. CB noted concern over the cost.	Note
8.7	CB noted route safety as a reason why Seafield to Hawthornvale is preferred by Leith Connections.	Note
9.	Local Place Plan	
9.1	JM reported that survey 1 closed at end of August and circulated a summary of the responses. JM summarised highlights of the responses and circulated a summary two-pager.	Note
9.2	JM explained the next steps, which includes Survey 2 running through September, final analysis in October, and submission in November.	Note
9.3	MW noted the need for action to come from the Place Plan.	Note
10.	Accounts	
10.1	DT noted that accounts have been passed. DT to circulate a note by email.	Note
11.	Any other business	
11.1	CH notes a consultation on the Coatfield site development ay the Star of the Sea church hall, Wednesday 3 rd of September.	Note
11.2	Date of next meeting 23 rd of September. Venue TBC.	Note

Selected Acronyms used:

CC – Community Council
CEC – City of Edinburgh Council
EBuG – Edinburgh Bus Users Group
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
SW – Scottish Water.