



Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Final minutes

Tuesday 25th November 2025

18:30–20:30

Custom House

Present:

CB	Chas Booth (Ward Councillor)	CH	Connal Hughes
DT	Douglas Tharby (Meeting Chair)	DG	Don Giles
ED	Elaine Dick	IM	Ian McCormack
IK	Isabel Kane	JC	Jonathan 'Geo' Camp
JM	Joanne McClelland	JS	Jim Scanlon (Chair of LLCC)
JR	Jason Ran	KH	Kier Harvie
MPH	Morgane Perez-Huet	NB	Nigel Beyal
MP1	Member of the public 1	MW	Margaret Wright

Apologies:

ANM	Adam Nols McVey (Ward Councillor)	AY	Arthur Young
AE	Avril Ewing	DF	David Fenton
KF	Katrina Faccenda (Ward Councillor)	NT	Neil Tulloch
VB	Viktorya Budre		

Distribution: Present and apologies

Item		Who
1.	Introductions & Apologies	
1.1	All present introduced themselves. Apologies were given from IK, KF.	-
2.	Declaration of interests	
2.1	JC noted his role in a group campaigning against pollution in the Water of Leith.	-
3	Minutes of last meeting	
3.1	JM proposed, MPH seconded.	-
4.	Matters Arising from previous minutes	
4.1	4.3 Planning meeting did not proceed. To be arranged offline.	Note
4.2	DT reported that he expects no eBug meeting this year.	Note
4.3	All confirmed the internal meeting on the 16 th of December is to proceed.	All
4.4	4.6 & 4.8 (stakeholder list) JM asked if this can be added to the agenda for the internal meeting.	ED
4.5	FSRS – DT noted that he has tried to ask them to attend, but may not have a contact. DT to continue to find the best person to speak to.	DT
4.6	DT noted no police report has been submitted. DT to chase up. JC noted that if the Police can't attend LLCC, the PO always issues a report, which JC chases up a week beforehand. JC to chase up on behalf of LHNCC.	DT
4.7	The suggestion of a report being sent in ahead of the meeting by City councillors was discussed. It was agreed for Councillors to submit written reports going forward a week beforehand. To be discussed at the internal planning meeting alongside	CB/KF/

	feedback from the ward Councillors.	ANM
4.8	Draft budget. DT to submit by the 16 th .	DT
4.9	Residents issue. JC reported that Living Streets Edinburgh has flagged rubbish at in the Seafield area. JC asked what we can do. ED noted that burning insulation is affecting the air quality management plan. CH suggested reporting fly tipping to the Council. CB does not think this is CEC land. CB thinks it has been reported already. CEC Head of waste is Andy Williams, CB suggests the CC email him and copy in the ward councillors. JC to email CB.	JC
4.10	MPH noted Waterstones are moving into the BHF location in the Kirkgate, near to Argonought Books. MW noted an update from the owner of Argonought Books that Waterstones are considering their position. MW to update the council if this does not resolve the situation.	MW
5.	Police Update	
5.1	No report issued.	-
6.	Leith Local Place Plan	
6.1	JM gave a verbal update that the other two community councils have been spoken to. The CEC head of Planning and head of Place, attended the LLCC and noted they will take regard of a Place Plan submitted now, and not wait until 2040.	Note
6.2	JM tabled the summary of the Planning Circular which she will send on as PDF. JM noted that each CC needs to put in a summary statement. MPH and ED to lead on this. Information notice needs to go to the ward councillors and the neighbouring CCs. This needs to be done before CEC will register the Place Plan.	Note
6.3	JM noted that funding application by MPH has been successful. £620 from National Lottery to print the findings of the Place Plan and hold an event to present it, and Custom House have agreed to host an event.	Note
6.4	JM showed the action plan, maps, diagrams, and report template. JM suggested the Placemaking group might want to review the proposed document, including IM, MPH, ED.	Note
6.5	DT noted the fund rules to abide by from the National Lottery. DT to send on.	DT
6.6	JM to send on the Planning Circular to LLCC.	JM
7.	Standing Items and Updates	
7a.	Planning & Licensing	
7a.1	IM outlined the written report he has sent out ahead of the meeting.	-
7a.2	IM suggested the report goes on the website. CH is happy to do so, but still working through access/training with ED. CH to upload once this has happened.	CH
7a.3	ED noted that each group can access their own page. To be discussed at the internal planning meeting.	Note
7a.4	IM asked for advice on whether 26 Tollbooth Wynd/Coatfield Lane, 49 affordable homes should be responded to. MPH suggested a neighbour who is an ex-planner could assist. CB noted that the pervious Planning application was conditioned to connect to Quiet Route 10 active travel route. All suggested making a comment to	IM JM

	improve tollbooth wynd for walking wheeling and cycling. JM will email a comment to IM around urban realm and frontages of the new development. Deadline is 28 th of November. DT noted an extension can be requested from the case officer. CH declared an interest in the site as a neighbour, and would like something built on this plot. CH noted this would improve safety in this area. CH suggested we support the construction of affordable homes. MPH noted a mention of Marrionville Fire Station – MPH to email. JM noted the point that the Council need a budget to maintain the finished building.	MPH
7a.5	IM explained the Signal group that has been set up to discuss Planning responses.	Note
7a.6	41 Ocean Drive is proposed to be converted to a boxing and martial arts academy. The surrounding area is Forth Ports', and is the responsibility of the Trams. All agreed no comment on this application.	Note
7a.7	IM made a note about Daltons having a PAN lodged. Two events at Leith Library about this PAN are planned. IM attending 15 th of January. JC to attend, and is asking if the event can be closer to the site. CH noted this has been pushed back following a Living Rent campaign against PBSA.	IM
7a.8	Casselbank Street – part demolition and turn into apart hotel. JM suggests objection on the basis of retaining residential in the area. All agreed.	IM
7a.9	IM noted change to direction from CEC on how objections can be registered. MW queried if CEC can change this given there are national strategies. CB clarified that this relates to the Scheme of Delegation, which is a CEC document. Officers recommended removing the threshold for number of objections before it goes to committee. Councillors rejected this, but noted that the objection needs to have a material consideration to be counted. MW noted this as a positive change.	Note
7a.10	Constitution Street application to be considered after this meeting.	IM
7a.11	Seafield. NT report has been submitted. DT to pass report on.	DT
7b.	Transport	
7b.1	Leith Connections. JC reported that the section from Great Junction St to Sandport is mostly complete. JC noted that remedial works are being undertaken, according to Miles Wilkinson. JC has invited Miles Wilkinson to LHNCC meetings. JC noted trees planted, benches, dropped kerbs have been installed.	Note
7b.2	eBikes. Nothing raised.	Note
7b.3	Ebug. No update. ED asked if the No 16 will come down the Shore. DT to check and report back. CH noted some concerns with the buses. DT to invite Lothian Buses to attend LHNCC. MW noted that public transport near Western Harbour seems uncoordinated.	DT
7b.4	CCTT. ED reported that she and MPH are representatives and meet monthly. The last meeting was a day after the last LHNCC meeting. There is another meeting tomorrow night. Reps from Trams team will attend, and the master snagging spreadsheet, RAG rating, to help look at Red and Amber issues, and Green issues where they can be done at the same time. ED noted the request that the spreadsheet is not to be circulated. ED has added points on tree planting and landscaping. ED & MPH have met with Trams and KF for some specific landscaping issues. No feedback from the meeting, but will get an update tomorrow. ED noted	ED

	<p>there are civil engineering issues.</p> <p>JR asked for the CC's top 5. ED noted this is the missing trees and incomplete landscaping. Confusion over ownership of issues.</p> <p>ED noted the stakeholder meeting for WoL Basins is an opportunity to ask about Trams and Discovery Gardens.</p> <p>CH asked what the escalation route is for these issues. ED proposed writing to Gareth Barwell to escalate. CB noted a report coming which will address the snagging issues to Transport Committee in April 2026. Nigel reported that he has been hearing for the last two years that these issues will be completed.</p>	
7c.	Environment and greenspace/bluespace	
7c.1	<p>FOWLb. DG has sent an update to DT about FOWLb, but this has not yet been sent on. DG summarised it as that the chair, vice chair, and secretary will stand down at the AGM in February. If the organisation is to continue then other people need to stand for these positions. DG noted that the conservation trust liaison, getting a higher profile for it, are all ongoing, along with filtration. DG notes the positive impact the group has had over 15 years. ED to circulate the paper.</p> <p>JM suggested the paper from DG be circulated by the committee to all channels.</p>	<p>ED</p> <p>All</p>
7c.2	<p>Western Harbour Ponds. CB noted that the hearing has been postponed from the development subcommittee. No note who postponed it. ED reported that FOWHP, one is an ecologist, who may have noted that the paperwork was incomplete. ED will give a presentation. CB made no comment on the application, but notes that CC may give additional information to committee members in addition to the presentation. FOWHP had its AGM ten days ago, which was a well-attended meeting, with many offering to be committee members.</p>	ED
7c.3	<p>Salamander Street. ED noted that the air quality action plan letter has been submitted. ED to chase acknowledgement.</p>	ED
7d.	Community	
7d.1	<p>Leith Chooses. DT notes that JR and DG have been attending. JR reported a good number of applications around 40, and that he has been working on this weekly. Voting on 24th of January, and they are looking for volunteers to support. £50,000 to be allocated, so only around ten projects can be supported. DT and MPH will volunteer on the day.</p> <p>DG noted that the council needs to increase the amount, given its a per capita basis and the population of Leith has increased.</p>	Note
7d.2	<p>Marionville Fire Station. No update given.</p>	Note
8.	Councillor/MSP/MP responses and updates	
8.1	<p>CB reported that he had a meeting last Friday with the Pride Bridge campaign. A meeting after with the council officers leading on the project, who reported that the funding application is unlikely to be successful from Transport Scotland. CB and officers looking for additional funding. The bridge is not at imminent risk of collapse, but officers are keen to demolish. Total cost is £4.2m. Not replacing like for like, Planning has been granted.</p>	Note
8.2	<p>CB noted that Leith community centre is being supported by ward councillors with</p>	Note

	the negotiations around leases.	
8.3	CB noted that on the topic of security in the Kirkgate centre, a meeting to discuss with key stakeholders has been held, including police and KF. The alcohol and drugs partnership are looking at other steps. KF is organising another meeting.	Note
8.4	Update on LHNCC funding bids and finances	
8.5	MPH reported that she is looking for more funds to assist with outreach and comms.	Note
8.6	MPH noted that the CC has got the funds for LLPP as above.	Note
8.7	MPH noted she is getting funding to support local groups rather than competing with other groups. MPH to update in the new year with a community action plan on the back of the LLPP.	MPH
9.	LHNCC roles	
9.1	The vote was held on co-opting KH and NB. All agreed. DT noted that the paperwork will be signed this evening.	All
9.2	DT noted that Living Rent technically not members at the moment, so cannot be co-opted into the group. DT to send the request to CH to pass on.	DT
9.3	DT noted the need for a secretary. ED noted she is monitoring the mailbox just now.	Note
10	AOB	
11.1	DG asked if CEC will be repairing Seafield Road soon. CB will ask and report back.	MPH
11.2	JC noted the Environment Rights Centre for Scotland are campaigning about sewage. JC noted the issue of sewage outflows in LHNCC area. They are asking for improvement of this situation. JC asked if the CC wants to sign as an organisation. JC to circulate to DT and JC. JM noted this ties into the LPP action plan. JC noted a baseline water quality now in place, with dangerous bacteria is present. DG noted that existing sewer needs renewal.	JC
11.3	Next meeting is Tuesday 27 th January. All agreed on Custom House being the venue.	All
11.4	Internal meeting on 16 th of December as noted above.	All

Selected Acronyms used:

CC – Community Council
 CCTT – Community Councils Trams Together
 CEC – City of Edinburgh Council
 CoL – Certificate of Lawfulness
 CWB – Community Wealth Building
 EBUg – Edinburgh Bus Users Group
 EVL – Edinburgh Visitor Levy
 FoWLB – friends of Water of Leith Basin
 FOWHP – Friends of Western Harbour Ponds
 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