



Present: ✓

Initials	Name	Present	Absent with apologies	Absent without apologies
AE	Avril Ewing	✓		
ANM	Adam Nols McVey (Ward Councillor)			✓
BM	Ben Macpherson (MSP)		✓	
CB	Chas Booth (Ward Councillor)	✓		
CH	Connal Hughes	✓		
DG	Don Giles		✓	
DT	Douglas Tharby (Meeting Chair)	✓		
ED	Elaine Dick		✓	
IK	Isabel Kane			✓
IM	Ian McCormick	✓		
JC	Jonathan 'Geo' Camp	✓		
JM	Joanne McClelland	✓		
JR	Jason Ran		✓	
KF	Katrina Faccenda (Ward Councillor)		✓	
KH	Kier Harvie		✓	
MPH	Morgane Perez-Huet	✓		
MW	Margaret Wright	✓		
NB	Nigel Beal	✓		
NT	Neil Tulloch	✓		
VB	Viktorya Budre			✓
MP 1	Member of the public 1	✓		
MP 2	Member of the public 2	✓		
MP 3	Member of the public 3	✓		
MP 4	Member of the public 4	✓		

**Distribution:** those present, absent with apologies, absent without apologies. Ben Macpherson, Tracey Gilbert.

Item		Who
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
1.1	All present introduced themselves. Apologies were given from DG, JR, IK, ED, Ben Macpherson, KF, KH.	-
1.2	DT noted that David Fenton and Arthur Young have resigned so should be taken off the list.	-
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
2.1	None declared.	-
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>	
3.1	SFRS replied to DT. Ben Macpherson replied to DT noting decision on Marionville is not expected until June at the earliest. BM notes that the fire station should be retained, or a station in this area, and will campaign for this. DT noted the full reply has been circulated to the CC, and that there is an opportunity to sign BM's letter.	DT

	All agreed to do so.	
3.2	DT noted all items from last minutes will be covered in the meeting.	-
3.3	The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by NT and seconded by JC.	-
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising (local resident/business/organisation issues)</b>	
4.1	No matters have been raised prior to the meeting.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Police Update</b>	
5.1	DT noted no report has been issued.	-
<b>6.</b>	<b>Scottish Historic Building Trust – Custom House (Sam Gallagher (SG) and Sutherland Forsyth (SF))</b>	
6.1	SG and SF introduced themselves, noting the last update was 18 months ago. Since then SG noted lots has happened, including the Sir Tom Farmer donation, and a private group of funders have given financial support.	-
6.2	SG noted that Leith Civic Trust are re-constituting themselves as Leith Museum Trust. Following the pattern of the royal Highschool preservation trust.	-
6.3	SG noted that SHBT have started research on the project, including two Saltire Scholars (young people). They are meeting with Angus Robertson (Cabinet Secretary for culture), and have support from Scottish Government	-
6.4	SG noted that the Tourism Levy didn't mention the Custom House, but SHBT are grateful for cross party support for Custom House to get unspent funds.	-
6.5	SG noted there will be 3-year development period to work up funds to match other funds and carry out the project.	-
6.6	Funding from Architectural Heritage Fund has been gained for a measured survey. An energy efficiency project has started, with a focus on replacing the oil-fired boiler.	-
6.7	SG noted that RMA have taken this data and started working up detailed proposals, including ASHP location. Next few years will see the design taken through Planning. CEC are being approached for funds for the capital project, and this will be doubled with fundraising. 2029 onwards for the works. SHBT are aiming between £20m and £30m. SG noted that the project will happen one way or another.	-
6.8	IM asked if the Sir Tom Farmer needs match funding. SG confirmed it does not. money doesn't need match funding. Tom Farmer's son and daughter are involved, and support the Custom House as part of Tom Farmer's legacy, with a focus on social equality and inclusion.	-
6.9	JC noted that the original concept was a town square with a roof on it. SG replied that yes, it needs to be comfortable for people "walking through with an Aldi shopping bag". It will be a 'third space' with a museum as the heart. Studio and workshop space, but also public space. SG noted it will not operate with subsidy – self-sufficient. Commercial returns will subsidise community work.	-
6.10	NB noted the 33/33/33 split between uses. SG replied that the Museum needs service space, welfare, catering waste disposal.	-

6.11	JC noted the current occupiers and users of the building will be displaced. SG noted that the current businesses will be invited back, but SHBT are focussed on community use rather than commercial. SG suggested that Leith Police Station may be better for cheap workshop space. JM suggested community right to buy model.	-
6.12	JM asked about the digital museum concept, and use of data, power, water use. SG noted no digital days, and that they are looking at community heat network connections. JM noted heat network potential to connect to surrounding users.	-
6.13	SF noted they want to keep momentum in the project. SHBT are conscious that it was in 2007 that saving Leith Custom House started. SF noted frustration that things don't move fast in Leith. SF is anticipating opening 2031/32, but don't want that to seem far off. SHBT want to start engaging the public now about stories that should be told in the museum.	-
6.14	SF noted that we're coming up to 900 year anniversary (1128) of first documented mention of Leith and SHBT are looking to celebrate this. They are establishing a pilot exhibition, a pop-up museum within the Custom House, run for two years, and have started gathering new stories from the public. Aiming for 900 items. This could be oral histories. SHBT want to add more than 900 items and are looking to partner with other organisations that have collections.	-
6.15	SF noted they are looking for ways to ease people into the concept of a digital museum, so are including traditional museum experiences too. SHBT want to see Leith as leader in the digital museum concept.	-
6.16	SF noted they are working with THELMA, and some private collections have been added, including the Salverson family archives. With this they are testing the digitisation of objects, and looking to prove concept. SF notes that digital can be more democratic for local organisations. Community groups or schools can create their own exhibitions.	-
6.17	SF noted the plan for a gradual use of spaces at the east of the ground floor. The Museum Trust will start to have a presence in the building.	-
6.18	SF noted work with the Spirit of Leith Facebook page where they surveyed what people would like to see. General history, business, innovation, maritime history, homelife, and maps.	-
6.19	SF noted there will be an illustrated timeline, working with Leith History Society and local artists. It will have a focus on notable Leithers.	-
6.20	SF noted that the pop-up museum will show the potential of the building, and show the work that needs to be done.	-
6.21	SF noted that they will commission and present a short film on the unique nature of Leith.	-
6.22	SF noted it will include a 3D scan of old Burgh Hall.	-
6.23	SF noted an intended focus on maritime stories. This will include mapping maritime sites along the Forth, and SHBT want to bring this to the museum. This display will include shipping routes, navigation, supply chains, oral histories, family businesses.	-
6.24	SF highlighted focusses on culture, community, health and home. It won't be	-

	focussed on last 150 years, and will go back further.	
6.25	SF suggested there will be a cinema showing old film footage from the 20 <sup>th</sup> C.	-
6.26	The pop-up museum will have a room about the future of Custom House.	-
6.27	SF noted an aim of 2027 to open to pop-up museum.	-
6.28	MPH asked how can LHNC help. Perhaps include a piece in the Newsletter? SF to send on content for the newsletter. SF noted they are conscious to manage expectations, and aim to get systems set up prior to publication of this initiative.	SF
6.29	SF noted that a way of dealing with the complex history of ups and downs in Leith can be possible with the digital system.	-
6.30	NB asked about home access to the digital museum. SG noted they are looking into digital access, but would like the museum is preferable to access at home. Looking to push for 'healthy digital'. The experience should not be just moving from screen to screen.	-
6.31	SG emphasised that they are looking for the museum to direct people to other places in Leith.	-
<b>7</b>	<b>Local Place Plan</b>	
7.1	JM outlined progress in completing the local place plan. JM outlined steps so far, and the original aspiration to submit one place plan for the three Leith Community Councils. JM spoke to CEC councillors at a meeting organised by CB, and got feedback. JM spoke to Anna Grant, and agreed a draft deadline to submit in May. JM noted we could submit 3 or 1 Place Plans. Leith Central CC came back with general agreement to the current draft. Leith Links CC were met in person and a detailed conversation took place, followed by detailed written feedback.	-
7.2	JM noted the current Place Plan has 64 action points in total, 24 of which are development (planning) points, and 40 are community action plan points. JM noted that there is agreement on most development plan items.	-
7.3	JM noted that in the community action plan, some are agreed, some not, and others that are to be discussed. JM noted the key areas of discussion is the agreement of what should go in a Place Plan.	-
7.4	JM outlined two possible options on the Community Action plan section:  A: put Community Action plan points that aren't accepted by all three CCs into a to-do list for a Development Trust and submit one plan for all three CCs.  B: do separate community action plans for each CC.	-
7.5	It was discussed whether watering down language would help. Use 'consider' rather than ask for. Re-think words which are emotive. Note 'connection' rather than ferry.	-
7.6	Members supported Option B but agreed to keep working on aligning the community action plan items. JM to take forward the development of the Place Plan on this basis.	JM
7.7	IM supported separate plans. Option B.	-

7.8	CH suggests outlining that what the public asked for but wasn't taken forward.	-
7.9	MPH agrees with Option B.	-
<b>8.</b>	<b>Standing Items and Updates</b>	
<b>8a.</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Licensing</b>	
8a.1	Planning Report issued.  Planning permission for Browns was discussed. No comments.	-
8a.2	Western Harbour Ponds Decision. MW and MPH noted their disappointment in the decision, though noted that the victory was that that one Councillor changed their opinion. MW noted that the developer's biodiversity plan was poor, which was acknowledged by a CEC officer. MPH and MW noted that the fight not over yet, and that they are meeting senior planning officer and their team manager tomorrow. MW looking for the lessons from this for future planning applications in the area. MW noted community have no recourse. JM asked if anyone has tried to buy the site. MW noted many groups have explored this, and each got an opportunity to speak. MW notes the planning process is the challenge. CB shares frustration at result, and commended the presentation by LHNCC. CB also pays tribute to ED's written submission. MPH believes there's more that can be done, and work to do. MPH and MW to continue to report back on progress to LHNCC.	MW/ MPH
8a.3	Seafield Master Plan. NT reported that the Seafield group met earlier this month to review CEC wave topping report. NT noted they were assured that it supports the assumptions behind the masterplan. NT also noted that a sounding board session was held last Friday afternoon, the final draft masterplan would be approved on Friday, to be presented to a councilors meeting in June. If approved then, it will be the end of the Seafield group. No report issued yet. NT asked if their presentation could be circulated, but that was denied.	NT
<b>8b.</b>	<b>Transport</b>	
8b.1.1	Leith Connections. JC noted the new routes were opened officially last Wednesday. The event included local school groups, and other communities used the route. JC noted that there was a presentation by WWCT (formerly Sustrans) at Duncan Place to deliver the Index. One highlight is that 44% of people want to walk more, 47% want to cycle more and 20% want to drive less.	-
8b.1.2	Bins outside Bottle Shop. JC believes they may move them back and reduce the cycleway slightly. But this may take away from outdoor seating. CB believes they are moving the bins.	-
8b.2	EBUG. DT has had nothing from EBUG. DT to continue to chase.	DT
8b.3	Trams (and CCTT). MPH noted a meeting tomorrow. MPH noted she has spoken to ED, and believes they will have to increase pressure since no planting has happened, which means they have missed another years' planting season. DT noted it is 3 years in June since the trams opened. DT noted the need to work with other CCs. All agreed that permissions and legacy history are often used as reasons for failure to resolve these issues.	MPH
8b.4	CB notes transport committee will have a 'final report' on 18 <sup>th</sup> of June.	-
<b>8c.</b>	<b>Environment and greenspace/bluespace</b>	
8c.1	JC noted the email from the Edinburgh Trash Club about dumping at big Tesco. JC noted this is outside LHNCC boundary. MPH has spoken with LLCC to work with	MPH

	them to identify who it belongs to.	
8c.2	JC noted that the resident swan at the Shore laid her first two eggs, and have moved away from Victoria bridge.	-
<b>8d.</b>	<b>Community</b>	
8d.1	MPH reported the Community Conversation led by Edinburgh Youth. MPH had conversation with how young people would like to see Edinburgh develop of the next few years. KF attended. Youth are left out of local democracy. MPH looking for conversation about how to bring young people in. Youth Edinburgh community council. Scottish Youth Parliament still exists. Action for engagement group to explore. MP1 notes Curriculum for excellence pier is around citizenry. MP1 believes schools should be in support of this.	MPH
8d.2	MPH noted that Edinburgh Youth are looking for ban on vape shops.	-
8d.3	MW noted that having done community consultation in some areas, she struggled to contact young people. Spoke to local high schools and connected it with the curriculum. JM noted that connections with the schools and the YMCA was made for the Place Plan surveys.	-
<b>9.</b>	<b>Councillor/MSP/MP responses and updates</b>	
9.1	CB noted that the council set its budget with 4% CT increase.	-
9.2	CB noted the LLPP meeting noted previously by JM.	-
9.3	CB reported that at the policy and sustainability meeting he pushed Lothian Heat CIC amendment.	-
9.4	CB noted that he and KF attended the Cables Wynd residents association meeting.	-
9.5	CB reported an emergency CEC meeting about vapes on 16 <sup>th</sup> of March, supporting licensing of vapes in principle.	-
9.6	CB noted the Leith Connections launch noted above.	-
9.7	FCB reported at the full CEC meeting the STL loophole was raised by him. CB asked for report to come to Planning Committee to see if CEC have powers to deal with this.	-
9.8	CB reported that he and KF met with a wheelchair-using resident, and wheeled around Shore and Junction St to demonstrate the barriers in moving around Leith.	-
9.9	CB noted that Living Rent are doing an STL report. AC will report back to the group on this.	AC
<b>10.</b>	<b>Update on LHNCC funding bids and finances</b>	
10.1	MPH report a £500 grant from Harbour homes for engagement activities. Funding to help kick start the engagement subgroup. Leafletting, youth engagement, posters, website.	Note
<b>11</b>	<b>Shore Collective x LHNCC</b>	
11.1	MPH noted that she and JC met with the Shore Collective and introduced both sides. MPH noted this helped to understand what is affecting their businesses. MPH noted	-

	their networking event on Thursday, MPH attending. JC noted it was a very positive meeting.	
<b>12</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
12.1	JM to reply to NT about the heat network meeting to confirm we will attend.	JM
12.2	JM asked about Leith Festival, and asked will LHNCC do a joint stall with LLCC. JM asked chair to reply to LLCC. Potentially have LLPP launch event around the festival.	DT
12.3	DT noted the EACC meeting on Thursday.	-
12.4	DT noted that an EACC planning group is being discussed to share planning knowledge.	-
<b>13</b>	<b>Next meeting:</b> at Custom House on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of April.	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  
ERCS – Environmental Rights Centre Scotland  
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  
SFRS – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service  
SHBT – Scottish Historic Buildings Trust  
SG – Scottish Government  
STL – Short Term Lets  
SW – Scottish Water