



Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Meeting minutes (final)

Tuesday 28 April 2026

18:30–20:30

Custom House, Leith

Chair: Elaine Dick

Attendance

Initials	LHNCC Members	Position	Present	Apologies	Absent
ECD	Elaine Dick	Co-chair	✓		
DJT	Douglas Tharby	Co-chair	✓		
KH	Keir Harvie	Treasurer		✓	
JC	Jon Camp	Secretary	✓		
MPH	Morgane Perez-Huet	Engagement		✓	
CH	Conal Hughes	CC member	✓		
NT	Neil Tulloch	CC member	✓		
IM	Ian McCormick	CC member	✓		
JR	Jason Ran	CC member		✓	
JM	Joanne McClelland	CC member	✓		
MW	Margaret Wright	CC member	✓		
NB	Nigel Beal	CC member			✓
VB	Viktorija Budre	CC member			✓
DG	Don Giles (Friends of WoL Basins – FoWLB)	Local interest group	✓		
AE	Avril Ewing (Living Rent)	Local interest group			✓
IK	Isabel Kane (Leith Rotary)	Local interest group	✓		

Initials	LHNCC Ex-officio Members	Position	Present	Apologies	Absent
KF	Katrina Faccenda	Ward Councillor	✓		
CB	Chas Booth	Ward Councillor	✓		
ANM	Adam Nols McVey	Ward Councillor			✓
BM	Ben Mcpherson	MSP			✓
TG	Tracy Gilbert MP	MP		✓	

Initials	Other attendees	Position	Agenda item
MP1	Member of the public 1	Member of public	
MP2	Member of the public 2	Member of public	Noise due to ships at Forth Ports
MP3	Member of the public 3	Member of public	Noise due to ships at Forth Ports
MP4	Member of the public 4	Member of public	Shore Collective
MP5	Member of the public 5	Member of public	
MP6	Member of the public 6	Member of public	

Item		Who
1.	Introductions, apologies	
1.1	All present introduced themselves. Apologies were given from those noted above.	-
2.	Declarations of interest	
2.1	None declared.	-
3	Minutes of last meeting	
3.1	JC proposed the last minutes and DT seconded them.	-
3.2	DT noted that he has been chasing up regarding Marionville Fire Station. DT noted it is still open and operating. DT expects to have to wait until after the Scottish Parliament elections. DT noted that the Edinburgh Partnership Board is meeting at the Fire Station in June.	DT
3.3	ED noted that MPH and SHBT have prepared content for the LHNCC Newsletter.	

3.4	Edinburgh trash club: JC noted no update.	-
3.4	JM noted that MPH has circulated notes from the Edinburgh Youth Parliament. ED to check.	ED
3.5	No update from AC on the Living Rent Report.	AC
3.6	JM confirmed that a call was held with the CEC LHEES team about NE Edinburgh. JM noted that this is something that could be content for the newsletter.	-
4.	Matters Arising (local resident/business/organisation issues)	
4.1	Noise due to ships at Forth Ports (FP) MP2 and MP3 presented their experience of noise living near to Forth Ports due to shipping and docked ships at Britannia Quay. They noted that had previously reported issues during lockdown. MP2 noted the issue with noise for those who are close by. CEC Environmental Health Officer attended to measure noise, and the ships were moved away from housing. MP2 noted they tried to speak to FP, but no response. MP2 noted that had had discussion with neighbours who have a background with shipping. MP2 queried how flats could be developed by FP without 'shore power' being put in to mitigate noise. MP2 would like FP to take this into consideration and move noisiest most disruptive ships away from residences.	-
4.2	MP3 noted they looking for other residents organisations to get together to make representation to FP. MP3 noted he would expect FP to speak with residents.	-
4.3	ED noted issues around Tannoy announcements. ED also noted consultation on CEC EHO air quality action plans, though mostly a response to Tower Place and Salamander Place, but that's because where the monitors are. ED has found out the EHO who presented to LHNCC has left the council. ED suggested inviting FP to the next LHNCC meeting.	ED
4.4	JC notes that on FP website stating shore power is in place at Port of Leith. JC notes shore power not being used due to diesel costing less than electricity. JC noted it was used for the Ukraine refugee boat.	-
4.5	KF notes the issue with the Victoria to get it connected to Shore Power during lock down. KF thinks LHNCC should have a meeting with FP to be clear about the technical side of things, and what we believe to be acceptable, particularly as more houses are being built. KF notes that Tannoy announcements are to do with safety. KF happy to help to arrange a meeting, and notify CB and ANM. ED asks to wrap air pollution into with this.	KF
4.6	EW notes the scale of coaches associated with cruise ships, parking, noise and air pollution. EW asks what Edinburgh gets from cruise ships. EW notes that councils have little power and SG need to be involved.	-
4.7	ED notes to have this as a standing item on the agenda. MP2 and MP3 agree.	ED
4.8	MP2 said she has not had a report from EHO on the noise.	-
4.9	Dangerous driving ED notes a letter from a member of the public about dangerous driving around Leith, including Leith Central area. ED has spoken to LCCC. IM noted the police previously had showed little interest in the issue. JC noted we should continue to report it. ED has written to the community police team.	-
4.10	EW notes the issue at Newhaven Harbour is the sequencing of traffic lights causing frustration.	-
4.11	Shore Collective January from Shore Collective introduced the Shore Business Collective. January noted it started just over a year ago. Just the Shore area. All are small businesses,	-

	with some links to some bigger ones, and all independently owned. The origin was frustration the Shore had got quiet compared to five years ago. They noticed the Walk was busy, but the Shore was quiet. The group had some meetings in the lead in to being constituted. They got the 'festive structure' at Sandport Bridge installed last Christmas. The group are looking to make the Shore more accessible to people all over Edinburgh. Last year they did a Halloween trail, made a map, and gave out sweets, for instance.	
4.12	January explained that they represent retail, hospitality, therapists, but mainly hospitality. They note challenges for day-time trading businesses, which they feel is to do with decline in office workers. This led to Mimis changing their business model to become Nami, as an example.	-
4.13	Shore Collective championed the Save Our Shore campaign which has led to conversations with landlords of Waterside House about the future of that building.	-
4.14	January will come back to future meetings. CH asked what would be helpful. January said engagement, building connections with business community, and residents, to see how they can support each other. ED noted MPH is on mailing list and WhatsApp group for the Shore Collective.	-
4.15	January noted that they do networking every three months.	-
5.	Police Update	
5.1	ED noted that no police report has been issued. ED has written to Police Scotland today. The last report was issued in January.	ED
5.2	KF noted a meeting with the PS area commander. KF noted she raised the need for reports, and action at key hotspots for crime and anti-social behaviour. KF noted they are looking to enforce cycle paths, but hard to do so due to secluded position of some. They have been using plain clothes patrols, so their activity may not be visible. KF encouraged people to report things to Crimestoppers anonymously. If a crime is ongoing and you feel under threat, call 999. KF noted their plans include proactive work with young people.	-
6	Local Place Plan	
6.1	JM explained the background to the Local Place Plan to date. JM noted that they have to be put forward by a constituted community group. JM outlined the work so far to have one document put forward by 3 community councils, which included two surveys last years, with public and stakeholder feedback. JM noted that since the end of last year it has been written up and consulted with key stakeholders, including the three CCs, to complete the document.	-
6.2	JM presented the current draft Place Plan and explained the structure of the document.	-
6.3	JM noted the local Place Plan has to be submitted by a constituted community group, and the aim for all 3 Leith CCs to submit the same plan. Feedback has been given by 3 CCs and incorporated and discussion is ongoing with LLCC.	-
6.4	KF reported the discussion at the last LLCC meeting about the Local Place Plan.	-
6.5	ED confirmed she happy to proceed with the whole plan as it is. JM to send it on to LLCC on this basis.	JM
7.	Standing Items and Updates	
7a.	Planning & Licensing	
7a.1	IM has circulated his report.	-
7a.2	IM noted that since the decision about WHP, planning officers have been spoken to to understand the reason for the decision. They said it was a longstanding area marked for housing development. IM noted that officers referenced the very strong representation from residents and LHNCC so wanted to understand more. IM noted	-

	that planning officers wanted to attend LHNCC to explain more about planning process, particularly as more development planned for Western Harbour and FP.	
7a.3	MW notes officers won't discuss particular applications, but these discussions would be helpful generally to understand the process more. MW thinks this is particularly important given the LHNCC area and potential future development.	-
7a.4	IM has specific questions for the officers about process and timing of LHNCC involvement. ED and DT to discuss this. ED notes a Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) letter received about Bath Road for discussion. ED suggests a meeting outside the normal meetings to review this issue. MW notes a feeling that residents don't have much power in the process, so is careful as to how much effort is put into this. CB supports the idea of the officers attending.	ED/DT
7a.6	ED recommends a separate meeting for the Bath Road PPP.	ED
7a.7	DG notes that the Planning Department have less power than they are sometimes given to. IM to arrange. JM, IM, DT IK, ED, JC to attend.	IM
7a.8	JM outlined the Edinburgh Urban Design Panel for developers to get early stage feedback. Panel has a wide range of organisations. Could put Community Councilors on the panel. ED to follow up.	ED
7a.9	CH suggests opening up the meeting with the two planning officers to other community councilors.	-
7a.10	NT noted that he has the presentation to the sounding board for the Seafield development and will circulate.	NT
7b.	Transport	
7b.1	CCTT. ED reported that the penultimate meeting is tomorrow. ED to attend on behalf of LHNCC. 4 councils and Trams to Newhaven team. Working against snagging spreadsheet. ED to report at next meeting.	ED
7c.	Environment and greenspace/bluespace	
7c.1	DG gave an update on FowlB. DG noted the Ben Macpherson meeting planned for the end of December happened at end of February. DG noted that during the meeting WoL2000 didn't attend, so they are no further forward on what the plans for development on WoL are.	-
7c.2	JC noted steps taken on testing silt. Group includes WoL conservation trust Scottish Water, the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, and SEPA. JC noted they are forming a subgroup. JM has an engineer able to quote. JM to provide a quote for the work to JC.	JM
7c.3	DG noted that the Plumbbase lease for the premises by Sandport Bridge runs out in 2028, but doesn't know what will happen then.	-
7c.4	IM noted that MPH has written to councilors who voted for WHP. One has responded. MW noted the wildlife present at the ponds. MW noted a meeting with councilors still to be had, and a piece has been put in the newsletter. MW noted the land has not been sold yet. MPH and MW to continue to monitor.	MPH/ MW
7c.5	DT noted conditions on the Planning consent which still need to be dealt with. MW thinks FP are doing activity on the site, but do not own the land.	-
7c.6	ED notes the landscaping work near Ocean Terminal ground has been remediated, new soil put down, grassed areas have been done, and seeded rather than turfed. ED hopes that this will continue along Ocean Drive.	-
7c.7	ED reported a meeting with Leith Nature Network where they walked the whole corridor. ED noted they are looking at Leith as a pilot to help community create	JM

	nature networks. ED noted not a huge budget but can facilitate. ED will follow up in writing. JM to circulate their PDF about lack of nature and pollution in Leith. ED interested in the scales they are planning at, between Leith links, to small patches of land, to planters.	
7c.8	MP2 noted the abandoned building at the start of Melrose Drive which could be taken down to create a small park. ED suggested Community Right to buy legislation could be used.	-
7d.	Heritage	
7d.1	ED noted that the plans for Custom house will go in the newsletter.	MPH
7e.	Community	
7e.1	ED noted January from the Shore Collective attended the meeting.	-
7e.2	ED noted discussions about a Christmas Tree. KF noted it is important to act on this and the motion has been taken to council. KF referenced the Christmas decorations for the Kirkgate as a tree and recognising it as Leith town centre.	-
8.	Councillor/MSP responses and updates	
8.1	KF has dealt with reporting people driving across Sandport bridge. KF notes this is purely illegal activity.	-
8.2	KF referenced reports of antisocial behaviour at the bench by St Ninians Manse. Suggestion to have it removed. KF thought it might not be the Council's, and on review found belongs to the residents in the adjacent development.	-
8.3	KF noted Cables Wynd House residents managed to get commitment to new lifts prior to the retrofit, and that they are having a party to inaugurate the new lift.	-
8.4	KF noted the Bernard Street closure recently due to gas works. Thereof allowed some discussion about the resilience of the area when streets are closed. KF thinks CEC have to think about how to divert traffic if this happens.	-
8.5	KF noted issues around Cala Homes where roads have not been adopted, and no parking is provided Isla Drive and Victoria dock, and surrounding roads resulting in no structured parking. KF looking for people who are affected by this. JC notes that this creates an unsafe walking route.	-
8.6	MW notes concerns about development at Western Harbour and visibility around parked cars in the current situation.	-
8.7	MP4 asked about development of Cables Wynd House. KF explained the proposed retrofit. MP4 asked about the fire that happened, and whether it will be attended to. KF confirmed it would be.	-
8.8	CB has also had emails about traffic across Sandport bridge. CB has spoken to the officer. CB asks people to get registration number and pass on to CEC and Police.	-
8.9	CB reported the Licensing board met last Friday and yesterday. CB reported discussion about fanzones for men's world cup. CB noted that any licensed premises that has a license for televised sport and extend their opening hours for any world cup matches through the night. Now the board are discussing outside fanzones – places that don't have an existing licence. CB noted three or four around Edinburgh. Civic licensing has generally allowed nothing outside after 10am, but board looking at this.	-
8.10	CB reported the Board agreed festival extension dates for those with automatic clause for extension during the festival. 7 th to 31 st of August.	-
8.11	CB noted that the Transport committee discussed ways to improve things for pedestrians. CB noted that the Greens put forward pro-pedestrian measures but neither were successful. CB noted both were put forward by living streets.	-

8.12	CB noted that CEC and IAJB looking at safe consumption room in Old Town. CB noted that Leith drug deaths tend to be behind closed doors. CB noted this is about harm reduction and part of a strategy to combat drug deaths. CB noted the consultation out at the moment.	-
8.13	DG noted there is a buslane camera at Sandport Bridge but doesn't look at the bridge.	-
8.14	JC asked about laws around parking in cycle lanes for loading. CB going to officers to check.	CB
9.	Update on LHNCC funding bids and finances	
9.1	To be updated when KH and MPH are back from leave.	-
9.2	DT notes funds from Harbour was sent through.	-
10	LHNCC members update	
10.1	MP5 noted their forms for becoming a member of the CC are being arranged by JC.	JC
10.2	MP5 explained his background his background with Leith and with other community council. MP5 noted he does consultation responses for a living and can contribute this to LHNCC. Interested in LLPP and youth Engagement. All voted in favour. JC to manage forms being filled in.	JC
11	AOB	
11.1	DT noted Leith Festival on 13 th of June and that LHNCC has a gazebo. The three CCs will share the stall. DT asked for people to support.	-
11.2	DG noted his previous paper about future of FOWLb. DG asked people to get in touch who might want to get involved.	-
12	Next meeting: at Custom House on the 26 th of May.	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
 LHEES – Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy
 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
 WHP – Western Harbour Ponds

Standard agenda

1. Introductions, apologies
2. Declaration of interests
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Matters arising (local resident/business/organisation issues)
5. Police update
6. Leith Local Place Plan
7. Standing items and updates:
 - a) Planning and licensing
 - b) Transport
 - c) Environment
 - d) Heritage
 - e) Community
8. Councillor (Chas Booth, Katrina Faccenda, Adam McVey) & MSP (Ben Macpherson) updates
9. TBC
10. TBC
11. AOB
12. Date of next meeting