

Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council ordinary meeting, held at Persevere Room, Leith Community Centre, Kirkgate on Wednesday 2 September 2015 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are ***RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS. NEM CON*** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision.

1 Introductions

1.1 Attendance

Heather Ford	LHNCC	Gillian Meek	Resident/Victoria Primary School parent council
Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary	Heather Milligan	Resident/Victoria Primary School parent council
Evie Murray	LHNCC	Alex Renton	Resident (Newhaven Road)
Robert Weir	LHNCC chair	Adrian Graham	Leith Central CC
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
John Appleton	Resident (Newhaven Road)	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Fi Burns	Resident	Sgt Nick Davies	Police Scotland

1.2 Apologies for absence

Denise Jones LHNCC | Cllr Gordon Munro Leith ward (Labour) | Don Giles FOWLB

2 Meeting arrangements

The chair and secretary noted that the last meeting in the current venue was very crowded – this was not conducive for including residents/visitors, so a larger venue is needed. Larger rooms are available the Leith Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. A straw poll showed a 50-50 split in preferences for Mondays and Tuesdays. Meanwhile, LHNCC will continue to use the current venue.

ACTIONS:

- ***SECRETARY TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER OPTIONS FOR VENUES;***
- ***ALL LHNCC MEMBERS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR MEETING PREFERENCES***
- ***B RYAN TO SET UP A DOODLE POLL TO FIND MEMBERS' PREFERENCES***

3 Minutes of previous meeting (June 2015)

3.1 Police report (item 3.1 in June minutes)

Sgt Davies is happy to drill down into statistics and hence send a report in advance of meetings, providing his Inspectors agree to this. ***ACTION: SGT DAVIES TO ASK HIS INSPECTOR ABOUT THIS.***

Sgt Davies noted that CEC-funded officers are likely to attend CC meetings from now on.

3.2 Future of liner terminal (item 2.1.3 of June minutes)

The Chair has not been able to meet with FP about this, primarily due to his work commitments out of Edinburgh. He noted that

- Expansion/improvement of the terminal might be a trigger for economic development in the area, although he queried how far existing developments and infrastructure in the area could accommodate any significant development
- that some of the harbour has been dredged and that buoys have been installed seaward of the harbour walls.

The chair has not yet contacted Port of Leith motorboat club, and the website has received no representations about the use, or dredging, of the Harbour from existing users. He has seen no obvious sign of logistical problems, and there appears to have been more activity at the port this summer than last summer. The arrival and departure of tenders seemed to work well and the harbour undoubtedly provided an attractive point of entry to Edinburgh.

3.3 Water of Leith silt and Cruz floating restaurant (item 2.1.1 of June minutes)

HELD OVER UNTIL OCTOBER, DUE TO ABSENCE OF 'SILT EXPERTS' D GILES AND G JOHNSTON

4 Forth Port's application to demolish Imperial Dock grain warehouse

The Chair noted that Forth Ports (FP) intends to apply to for listed building consent permission to demolish this building – see FP's briefing at <http://bit.ly/1VGHp7T>.

The chair noted the main points of this document's executive summary, e.g. over 800 new local jobs, £1-28m additional business rates.

Cllr Booth noted that the application was lodged on 17 August (See item 15/03779/LBC on Edinburgh Council's planning portal at <http://bit.ly/1LRDyjY>.)

The Secretary expressed concern that one of the proposed uses of the site is 'Oil and Gas decommissioning' – this may potentially lead to extremely hazardous material being brought into the dock. It was suggested that previous promises by Forth Ports (e.g. extra houses, wind-turbines) have not materialised – hence many LHNCC members are dubious about the job numbers mentioned above.

Cllr Booth noted that he had previously written to FP about citizens concerns such as potential biomass converters, but had received no response. He also noted that it would be normal for an application to demolish a listed building would be accompanied by an application detailing how the site would then be used. He suggested submitting an objection that would be withdrawn if concrete information on how the site would be used was later provided.

The Chair noted that listed building protection may only be removed if there is good reason for this. He also suggested that unless a decision-maker knows what will happen at the site consequent upon the removal of listed status, **informed** decisions as to whether to take or allow this action could not be made. In this case, there is no certainty as to how the site will be used after the proposed demolition, so any decision to allow this demolition would be uninformed and, at least, premature.

Cllr McVey stated that such decisions are possible under current planning guidance but cautioned LHNCC against using speculation to decide its actions. It was noted that Leith Links CC's comment on the demolition application was based on lack of information on how the site would be used.

A Graham stated that only the bow of a ship can get close to the site, and so loading/unloading of ships via this area is impractical. It was noted that a crane had been used to unload grain shipments in the past.

A resident suggested that the site's asset value would increase if this apparently unwanted building was removed.

ACTION: CHAIR, SECRETARY (AND LHNCC PLANNING CONVENOR [N WILSON], IF AVAILABLE) TO DRAFT AND SUBMIT AN OBJECTION.

5 Aldi planning application for supermarket at Dock Street

See information provided by Aldi previously circulated by Secretary (now hosted on LHNCC website at <http://bit.ly/1E1zZNA>)

The secretary noted that Aldi and their consultants had hosted a drop-in session about this potential development, and that planning application is due in the next 2 weeks. The store is due to be completed by 2018. He suggested that the planned building is quite sympathetic to the area

He noted that (according to Aldi)

- 35 new jobs would be created
- the store would not compete with existing local businesses because there are none offering similar products.
- traffic issues will be minimal because the store would only receive two truck-loads of deliveries per day, and that these would be delivered via an entrance on Dock Street.

Residents attending the meeting stated that

- the store would be convenient for them
- that the proposed levels of deliveries would not be a concern for them
- that the proposed 60-space car-park would also not be a concern for them

Cllr Booth noted that the NHS may object to this application due to high levels of alcohol-related issues in the area.

DECISION: NO OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION

6 Reports

6.1 Secretary

DECISION: TO GIVE TWO TENTS (ORIGINALLY BOUGHT TO LEND TO COMMUNITY GROUPS) TO LEITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

6.2 Treasurer

The current account balance is £757.47. **The special events account balance is £XYZ**

6.3 Events

No items

6.4 Planning

See also items 4 and 5 above.

CLlr Booth noted that planning permission had been granted for a care home at Tennant St, but that the developers have now applied to build residential units. The Gaelic School is opposed to this over concerns about plans for vehicle access. However the consultation period is now closed.

6.5 Police

Sgt Nick Davies noted the following in his main report or in reply to questions.

- Inspector Carson is taking over at Leith from Inspector McLean. Insp Carson hopes to meet every CC in his area.
- The community officers funded by Edinburgh Council are Niall Corrigan, Margo Darling, Kevin Weaver and Colin Spence. They will attend Leith CC meetings. They are tasked with submitting monthly reports on their community activities (e.g. patrolling with environmental wardens, working in schools), and should provide better, regular contacts between Police Scotland and CCs.
- House-breaking (especially in the Trinity area) and car crime are currently major problems, even though 'solvency' levels are good. The house-breaking trend now centres on younger people breaking in to steal keys to then steal cars. Such offenders are typically under 16 years old. Releasing them into their parents' custody tends to be ineffective, so anti-social behaviour legislation is being used to pressure parents.
- Offenders often use the Water of Leith path to avoid police or ditch the stolen cars. Some stolen cars are being set on fire at the end of joy-riding. Other groups of offenders are using stolen cars to attack businesses in other parts of Edinburgh.
- Operation Quarterlight is targeting car crime in Leith and Drylaw. Police Scotland (PS) is able to respond more quickly via plain clothes officers patrolling in relevant areas. When offenders are arrested, this will filter through to the social work system.
- It is advised to lock doors and store keys out of sight. Also, high hedges enable house-breakers to 'work' out of sight.

Concerning recent arsons in Newhaven Road:

- A resident reported that cars had been burnt in Bonnington Road, Newhaven Road and Pitt Street in May 2015. Such cars included normal cars, not just expensive ones. Residents are concerned that offenders may move to setting houses on fire. If fires are lit in bin chutes, this could lead to smoke affecting many residents even if the whole building doesn't catch fire. He requested that CCTV was installed in the area. CLlr McVey stated that it is difficult to obtain CCTV for specific issues such as antisocial behaviour – much CCTV is linked to transport issues.
- It was suggested that these arsons needed accelerants, but the Fire Service has found no evidence of them.
- Sgt Davies has also recently been informed of arsons in the Bonnington area, Drylaw and Leith. PS is responding by putting more uniformed patrols in the Bonnington area. PS are also investigating relevant CCTV options. It is currently not clear where there is a single offender or a group of such arsonists.
- A resident stated that a relevant group of neighbours is setting itself up because the local Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is dormant. He asked whether this was worthwhile and whether LHNCC has any power in this matter. The Chair suggested that a NW – and appropriate visible signage – may be a suitable deterrent.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - **CLLR BOOTH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WHERE APPROPRIATE**
 - **SGT DAVIES TO REQUEST PORTABLE CCTV UNITS (NOW USED FOR WEEKEND ASB DETERRENCE)**
 - **RESIDENT TO KEEP LHNCC INFORMED.**

7 Capacity building

Held over to next meeting

8 AOCB

The Secretary commended Streetlife (<https://www.streetlife.com>, where citizens can consult with each other about local matters) and Leithers don't litter (<https://www.facebook.com/Leithersdontlitter>, a movement against litter and fly-tipping in Leith)

The Chair noted that some cyclists regard Edinburgh's dual-use cycle-pedestrian paths as being for cyclists only, to the detriment of cycling's reputation. He requested that signage reinforcing the dual-use nature of these paths was installed. Sgt Davies noted that there are five currently unused police bikes at Leith police station. These will be used to combat anti-social behaviour on the cycle-paths.

9 Date of next meeting

1st wed of each month until further notice