

# Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council meeting, held at Leith Community Centre on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are **RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS**. *Nem con* means that no-one spoke or voted against an item.

## 1 Attendance and apologies

### 1.1 Attendance

Stewart Auld	LHNCC	Arthur Young	LHNCC
Elaine Dick	LHNCC	Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary
Rob Levick	LHNCC vice-chair	PC McNiven	Police Scotland
Blyth A McLucas	LHNCC	PC Kennedy	Police Scotland
Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary	Cllr Chas Booth	Leith ward (Green)
Jennifer Marlborough	LHNCC	Cllr Gordon Munro	Leith ward (Labour)
Bonita Preacher	NTBCC treasurer	Gillian Meek	Victoria Primary school parent council
Douglas Tharby	LHNCC	Michael Traill	Leith Links CC
Robert Weir	LHNCC chair		

### 1.2 Apologies for absence

James F Duff	LHNCC	Cllr Adam McVey	Leith ward (SNP)
Don Giles	Friends of Water of Leith Basin	Ben Macpherson MSP	Edinburgh Northern and Leith

## 2 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved *nem con* subject to removing an extraneous line of notes at the foot of page 2, and noting that action under item 4.3.2 was to be taken by Cllr Munro.

## 3 Matters Arising

### 3.1 Proposed school in Western Harbour area

The chair reported that he has asked whether there will be any public consultation about the proposed school extra to the usual planning consultation, in particular over the 'report on outcomes'. G Meek circulated Victoria Primary School Parent Council's consultation response (section 0 below). The main points of that are

- There is conditional support for a move to a new site.
- However, there is concern about lack of clarity about the current proposal, about how the current consultation is being carried out, about quality of build, about access, about the new school possibly being a three-stream school in too small a site.

### 3.2 Waterfront plaza (WP)

J Marlborough noted that the application is going to CEC's planning committee in April. Cllr Munro noted that unless the developers address an issue about the proposed commercial units (namely that similar units in nearby developments are very hard to let, and that such units are contrary to the local development plan), the application is likely to be rejected. Cllr Munro suggested that these units could be targeted at small artisans.

### 3.3 Speeding on Ocean Drive

See police report (section 4 below).

### 3.4 Raising awareness of LHNCC

It was noted that E Dick has developed posters and flyers to advertise LHNCC (cost of printing about £100). **ACTION: LHNCC MEMBERS TO DISTRIBUTE THESE IN THEIR OWN AREAS.** The secretary noted that a neighbourhood watch noticeboard in Newhaven is unused, but would be a suitable site for a poster.

It was agreed *nem con* that LHNCC will advertise itself in the *Leither* and the *Forth Advertiser*. (total cost about £300). It was suggested that LHNCC forms a communications group to create advertorial text for such channels.

It was noted that there had only been 6 responses to a questionnaire about individual LHNCC members' aims and strengths. **ACTIONS: LHNCC MEMBERS TO RESPOND TO THESE QUESTIONNAIRES, B MCLUCAS TO REPORT (VIA SECRETARY) ON OUTCOMES OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.**

## 4 Reports

### 4.1 Police

The PCs read out a statement by Police Scotland's (PS) chief constable about the recent attack on the UK parliament, noting that UK threat level remains at 'severe' but that PS is committed to keeping all people safe.

Cllr Munro noted the occurrence of hate-supporting graffiti in LHNCC's area. PS community police officers (CPOs) are aware of this, and are taking action. It was noted that a recent 'Scottish Defence League' rally drew very few supporters.

The CPOs have been patrolling with regard to the recent introduction of 20mph limits in most of Edinburgh. Their main current tactic is education. However, anyone found driving over the former speed limits will be penalised. It was noted that CPOs now have more time to confront speeding issues. There is a mechanism for feeding back results of this current campaign.

PS are using marked and unmarked cars to observe speeding on Ocean Drive. 2 ASBOs have been issued recently. Cllr Booth reported that a speed investigation at Rennie's Isle had found an average speed of 29.7mph, and that there had been one accident in this area in recent years, and 2 accidents in Commercial St. Cllr Munro suggest investigating social media for evidence of speeders boasting about their exploits.

The main crime statistics are

- 11 housebreakins (2 to dwellings, 5 to other premises)
- 36 common assaults
- 2 drink-driver, 5 driving without licence, 9 driving without insurance.

See full report in appendix 2.

An LHNCC member asked whether cycle-theft was increasing in this area. The PCs responded that cycle-theft is endemic all over Edinburgh.

#### **4.2 Treasurer**

Current balance £1232.33, following expenditure on minutes secretary and Xmas lights.

It was noted that there will be expenditure on LHNCC's presence in Newhaven Gala in May 2017.

#### **4.3 Planning**

See also items 3.1 and 3.2

It was noted that there is a current application for 'transgression' (biking and roller-blading) on the former BHS site. See [Transgression's website](#) for further information.

The former Dazzle ship is due to become a 'boatique' hotel.

It was noted that Aldi's application has been approved by the Scottish Government reporter.

It was noted that the Scottish Government consultation on planning is still open.

#### **4.4 Secretary**

Preparation for the Newhaven Gala was discussed.

It was noted that Leith Links CC is asking nearby CCs about potential collaboration. There will be a meeting of representatives of these CCs. **ACTION: LHNCC MEMBERS TO RESPOND TO THE CIRCULATED ONLINE SURVEY.**

### **5 AOCB**

B Ryan reported that he is looking into Data Protection issues that might affect LHNCC.

B Ryan noted that a 'bike for refugees' event will take place on Sunday 2 April.

Cllr Munro noted that there will be a fund-raising gig for Citadel youth centre at the Voodoo rooms on 20 April.

There will also be a poetry event on Friday 28 April at Leith St Andrews church.

J Marlborough noted that the CC training she had attended had been very useful.

### **6 Date of next Meeting**

25 April 2017

## 7 Appendix 1 Victoria Primary School Parent Council response to consultation on proposal to build new school at Western Harbour

### 7.1 Introduction

As a parent council, we have seen a lack of stability for the school over recent years, with changing projections of future numbers of children in the area meaning that the school has faced closure, several expansion proposals and now a plan to move to a new location and with unclear arrangements in the interim period. This lack of certainty creates a difficult environment for school management, teachers and other staff, pupils and families.

We surveyed parents and overall there is conditional support for the move to a new school site.

However, there is a lack of clarity and planning around the current proposal – it the council is requesting a carte blanche, with little detail about what the school design and build quality might look like; how roads, traffics and access might work effectively; and about whether there is really adequate land – given that the council wishes to have the option of expanding the school to three streams.

A two and three stream school are very different beasts, and a three-stream modern-build primary school would be very different from the current Victoria school, ethos and identity.

**On behalf of parents, we want to stress that it is essential to have a clear plan for the school and consequent certainty and stability for parents and children. It is also clear that there is a need to give full consideration to the heritage and identity of the school, as well as the guarantee of adequate, quality outdoor and GP space.**

**There has also been concern about how consultation has been carried out in the run-up to this move. We ask for a guarantee that the council and the school's parent body can work together collaboratively to ensure that parents and carers are kept informed from the earliest stages and are given full input into plans and designs for any future school.**

### 7.2 Parent and carer survey

The Parent Council surveyed parents and carers on the future of the school (using both online and paper questionnaires, the latter distributed in the playground to make sure a wide sample of parents were reached), and 79 people responded. The school has over two hundred pupils, some from the same families with several children at the school.

#### 7.2.1 Almost half (48 per cent) of those who responded supported the building of a new school at Western Harbour.

Comments included:

"In the end, the teachers and children need a space that enables them to have the best education possible, and the facilities to provide it. While I appreciate the history of the current building I believe our community would be better served by a building more appropriate to modern demands."

"This is a great opportunity to get a modern up to date school for ours and future children."

"Victoria is a fabulous school with a great heritage but it is no longer fit for purpose given the expansion in housing in the area. A new school is the only sensible option in my opinion."

"I am passionate about X attending a small community school while maintaining the heart of Newhaven - Victoria School. But am aware the school needs to expand."

"A new school seems to be most the practical alternative - but it must remain local."

"Better quality teaching/learning environment"

#### 7.2.2 However, support for a new school at Western Harbour came with strong caveats.

"Worried about the quality of a new school build and things going wrong, as well as delays and possibility of school ending up really huge."

"Ensure new modern building or adaptations are built well and don't cause future structural problems like those in 2015/16."

"My concern is that a new build would be expanded to a three stream school, on a plot suitable only for two streams, surrounded by roads, and with inadequate access for vehicles."

"The proposed site is barely big enough for a 2-stream school. It is far too small for a 3 stream school."

"I don't trust the council to build one large school with adequate provision of play space, GP space."

"If the building is moved it will just be like every other school in Edinburgh."

#### 7.2.3 Thirty-four per cent of respondents supported the idea, as originally mooted when Western Harbour was being developed, of there being a dedicated school there in addition to Victoria.

"Having 3 smaller schools would be better for the community. Also this would allow for an increase in pupil numbers. Adapting VPS so that it could have more children would mean that there would be very little outside space. The school is already overcrowded."

"Prefer a smaller school/less pupils. I also feel that three schools would be a better catchment fit and mean less travelling for many people."

#### 7.2.4 Eighteen per cent wanted the school to stay in the current building but to be expanded through lateral means such as extensions or land purchase.

"The school is the heart of the community and is of great historical importance to Newhaven and Edinburgh. The school has a lovely village feel to it and if it moves to Western Harbour it has no history and is soulless. Current pupils will be disrupted at a key learning stage moving to another school."

“Prefer to have the original building adapted 1. Heritage and keeping a sense of history 2. Structure and fabric of the building is probably sound and may fair better than a new building 3. Like the location for the community.”

### 7.3 Priorities

In terms of priorities, there was a spread of opinion, with the top priority being:

**Having a long term solution** (“Whilst the history of the current building is unique it is important that the solution to the current accommodation issue is a long term and adaptable solution” “Forward thinking by the council rather than short term solutions”)

The other factors regarded almost universally as important were:

- **Maintaining a sense of community and identity** (“Don't want a massive ever-expanding school, like the village ethos of Victoria” “Keep the school and the history and community around”)
- **The outdoor space around the school** (“ensure that the new school is on an adequate sized site” “Present building has limitations particularly outdoor space. Purpose built new build is needed - with provision for outdoor education”)
- **The interim arrangements** (“As a parent, I am fully supportive of building a new bigger school locally to accommodate bigger classes. What is most important will be to cause as little disruption to the existing pupils.”)
- **The certainty of future plans**

A sense of history and the location in Newhaven were also factors that were generally regarded as important.

There was a feeling that, while the need for expansion is clear, a small school size was beneficial to pupils:

“While I am aware the school needs to expand I have great concerns Newhaven will lose its school and it gets developed into Residential flats. I also feel my child thrives in a small personal community school I worry she would not be happy in a big school.”

“Make sure it does not expand too much so the children are lost in a school with too many children especially regarding class sizes.”

“I really want to keep Victoria as a primary school. I believe primary aged kids benefit from small schools, so my preferred option would be for a new, not too big school to be built at Western Harbour. If Victoria has to close as a school, I would like to see it continue as a community space/museum/provide artists studios.”

Indeed, most parents were keen that, were the school to move, the building could be used for the community rather than sold off for development or left empty.

“The building to remain used by the community-> no sale for development/apartments for rich people.”

“I would hate to see the beautiful old building fall into disrepair - I hope the council will make every effort to conserve it as a community/historical centre for Newhaven.”

“I think it will be very important to keep the school as a youth club of some sorts so the kids have somewhere to go”

“The new Anchor building would be an ideal nursery and help towards providing nursery places of which there are not nearly enough.”

Concerns about class sizes were raised, with priorities identified as:

“Maintaining a community based school without expanding and without large class sizes”

“Keeping class size as is or smaller.”

Parents raised the issue of whether nursery space would be available, and the pressing need for more space for after school care.

Uncertainty around the future of Trinity Academy was also raised as an issue by parents.

### 7.4 Interim arrangements

In terms of interim arrangements, 39 per cent of respondents wanted temporary classrooms as the solution, although this raises serious concerns about available play and sports space in the interim period.

Thirty per cent supported the use of Fort as a temporary annex, although many parents were very strongly against this option.

“Although I am concerned about taking away more playground as there is so little I am also very concerned about having an annexe as it divides the children there from the body of the main school. The worry is they then don't feel part of the school community. How are children with behaviour issues supported and managed if they are away from school management team.”

Eighteen per cent backed the use of another local space (with suggestions from David Lloyds to the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop).



Community Council Meeting  
CPT Leith Ward  
Not Protectively Marked

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only to inform community councils in relation to relevant information for their area and enable them to carry out their responsibilities. It should be noted that the timing of this community council meeting is in advance of the ratification of any statistics or the completion of the procedures and reconciliation processes that are undertaken in association with the publication of official statistics. Given this there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and any finally reported statistics - for example due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as official statistics.

Leith Community Council Meeting		
Rank / Name of Officer Attending		
Date of Meeting – 28.03.17	Time - 1900	End of Month - February
Information (this month / local priorities / incidents)		
PC in attendance	PC McNiven E0512, PC Kennedy E0189	
Community Police Station	Leith	
E Division Priorities	Public Safety, Antisocial Behaviour, Serious and Organised Crime.	
PSOS Priorities and values	Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour, Road Safety & Road Crime, Protecting People at Risk of Harm, Serious Organised Crime, Counter Terrorism.	

Good News
All community officers now trained in use of speed detection equipment, concentrating on areas around local schools.
In regards to Anti social driving, PC Kennedy and I have committed over 40 hours of static and mobile patrols, both in marked and unmarked vehicles, within the Ward. We have issued ASBO's in relation to anti social driving. A joint operation was arranged with Road Policing who issued numerous vehicle defect notices.

Ward Priorities	
Priority 1	Violent Crime
Priority 2	Antisocial behaviour including Drugs and alcohol and antisocial driving
Priority 3	Homes and cars being broken into

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**Housebreakings**

11 x HB including attempts  
6 x Dwelling Houses  
2 x Non Dwelling  
3 x other premises

**Assault**

36 x Common Assault  
1x Emergency worker assault  
3 x Serious assault  
3 x Robbery and assault

**Road Safety / Initiatives**

0 x Dangerous Driving  
2 x Drink Driver  
0 x Disqualified Driver  
5 x Driving without a licence  
9 x Driving without insurance

**Theft**

20 x Common theft  
26 x Theft Shoplifting  
13 x Opening a lockfast place MV  
10 x Theft of motor vehicle  
7 x Theft from motor vehicle insecure  
3 x Attempt theft motor vehicle

**Hate Crime**

5 x Racially aggravated conduct

**ASB / NPS / incidents of note**

Numerous patrols and details aimed at targeting boy racers at Ocean Terminal. ASBO's issued.  
Ongoing prostitution patrols both uniformed and plain clothes patrols targeting customers.

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**Actions Update From Previous Meeting**

Abandoned vehicle, possible VRM- SE05 GNO on Gordon Street (Rear car park). PC Kennedy and PC McNiven attended, no owner traced, vehicle uplifted from locus.

Road safety speed checks carried out by PC Kennedy and PC McNiven on Claremont Place. Numerous vehicles stopped, drivers warned re excessive speed.

T4 Response officers carried out similar checks on Restalrig Road.

**Actions To Be Taken From This Meeting**

**Guidance**

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### Miscellaneous Information

**Leith Ward** comprises of 3 Police Beats with 2 funded officers and 4 Community officers

**NL 26 – PC Fiona Brown 3594 – PC Niall Corrigan 11182** - Newhaven, Ocean Terminal, Western Harbour

**NL 27 – PC Joe Kennedy 5783 – PC Lauren Mitchell 12050** – Great Junction St, Duke St, Leith links, Constitution St, Commercial St, Leith Docks

**NL 28 – PC Margo Darling 4152 – PC Paul McNiven 12031** - Lochend Rd, Restalrig Rd, Hermitage Pl, Pirniefield, Seafield Cemetery

### Policing

The Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Inspector Alan Carson 5213

The CPT Sergeants covering wards are: -

Sergeant Niven Bull 11087 – Based at Leith Police Station

Sergeant Andrew Johnson 5137 – Based at Craigmillar Police Station

The CPT consists of 3 teams of community-facing Constables, and the emphasis will be on community working, in a bid to solve local issues.

In non-emergencies, should you wish to contact us, please do not hesitate to do so.

You can contact us by email at [edinburghleithcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:edinburghleithcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by telephoning the national non-emergency number **101**. You can also follow us on Twitter [@PoliceScotland](https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland) or locally [@EdinPolNe](https://twitter.com/EdinPolNe) OR [@EdinburghPolice](https://twitter.com/EdinburghPolice)

**Police Surgery** – Officers wish to tie in with any existing council surgeries that exist. Please contact the relevant officers to facilitate this.

NL 26 – Surgery – TBC

NL 27 – Surgery – Leith Community Centre, Newkirkgate

NL28 – Surgery – Restalrig Hub

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