

Minutes of the Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council meeting, held at Leith Community Centre on Tuesday 27 June 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	PC Niall Corrigan	Police Scotland
Elaine Dick	LHNCC	PC Fiona Brown	Police Scotland
James Duff	LHNCC	Don Giles	Friends of Water of Leith Basin
Jennifer Marlborough	LHNCC	Rod Shearer	Trinity CC
Douglas Tharby	LHNCC	Judy Crabb	Newhaven Heritage
Robert Weir	LHNCC chair	4 residents	
Bruce Ryan	Minutes secretary		

1.2 Apologies for absence

Rob Levick	LHNCC vice-chair	Bonita Preacher	NTBCC treasurer	Allan Mackie	LHNCC secretary
Blyth McLucas	NTBCC	Arthur Young	LHNCC		

2 Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved without changes, *nem con*.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Police report

PCs Brown and Corrigan reported as follows:

- Statistics have not been prepared by the relevant unit. Inspector Carson will chase this up.
- Community Police Officers (CPOs) have been concentrating on Operation Soteria, which aims to prevent/counter motorcycle theft. This is a 'huge' problem in the Drylaw area. Examples of positive enforcement include sentencing of a prolific young motorcycle thief to a term in a young offenders' institution.
 - The COPs have made around 30 crime prevention visits, mostly to hotel and business owners.
 - 60 vulnerable motorbikes have been observed and their owners warned.
 - There is some resistance from guest-house owners, who understandably do not want to advertise crime is possible in their area, but the PCs said that this problem is no worse than in equivalent EU cities.
 - The CPOs are working with CrimeStoppers on publicity about this problem. ***ACTION: B RYAN TO PUT THIS ON LHNCC WEBSITE WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE.***
 - CPOs are also acting on boy-racers in Portland Gardens, Ocean Drive etc. It was recognised that the current road-layout tempts this problem, so this is likely to be an on-going issue. ***ACTION: CPOs TO SEND DETAILS OF RECENT ASSESSMENT OF THIS ISSUE TO B RYAN, FOR PASSING ON TO LHNCC***
- The recent terrorist attacks caused a reduction of 'boots on the ground' as police were diverted to anti-terrorist duties. Police Scotland aims to train more firearms officers, but without increasing overall numbers of police, which is likely to have some effects on other operational matters.
 - There has been no noticeable increase in hate-/race-crime, in the PCs' experience.
- CPOs are trying to prevent licensed premises selling alcohol to under-age drinkers. This is currently using Tesco's training facility to train workers in smaller alcohol outlets.
- The start of the school holidays may cause more work, but it's 'never too bad'.
- The CPOs reported success in an on-going antisocial behaviour (ASB) case: an antisocial tenant has been relocated for rehab and detox in hospital. He will then be moved to supported accommodation.
- There is active work on drug activities and related ASB the Citadel and Persevere areas.
 - The CPOs stated that community policing is working better than previous methods: it gets lots of intelligence and reduces calls for response/emergency colleagues.

3.1.1 Notable recent crimes

Alcohol and/or drugs were a factor in most of the following

- 22 year-old male charged with rape in Anderson Place (30 June)
- 25 year-old male charged for armed robbery (15 May)
- 34 year-old male charged with armed robbery at Cashino (15 May)
- 31 year-old male charged with hate-crimes against a staff-member in Ocean Terminal (22 June)
- 30 year-old male charged for attempted murder in Cables Wynd (24 June)
- 28 year-old male charged for serious assault in Pirie St (26 June)

3.2 Victoria primary school/Newhaven Heritage

The chair has attempted to find out from CEC whether there would be more public consultation before this project moved into the planning stage, but has no response.

Judy Crabb spoke as a representative of Newhaven Heritage

- NH wishes to reopen a local museum that closed around 10 years ago.
- There was to be community consultation on rising rolls at VPS, and a site has been identified for a new school in Western Harbour. CEC will make relevant decisions on 29 June.
- NH is working towards community use of the existing building: it has met with, *inter alia*, CEC, Development Trust Association, community asset transfer advisors).
- If a new school is built, it will not open until at least 2020. Only then would the old building be for sale.
- NH will undertake community engagement if/when the decision is made to build the new school, aiming for community use of the old building. The current head-teacher is very much in favour of this.
 - This engagement will try to find out what local people want in a community building.
 - To JC/NH, one obvious use is a heritage centre/museum.
 - This idea is supported by many agencies, and by CEC councillors.
 - NH is considering how such a project can be viable, e.g. raising funds to buy the building, renting space to small arts companies. NH would head the project for a while, then hand over to a development trust.
 - This would need a new board of trustees, and volunteers.
 - It was suggested that NH work with SHBT to ensure commercial viability.
- NH believes that there would not be fatal competition with the Customs House, Leith Theatre etc. The heritage centre/museum would focus on the unique points of the Newhaven area, e.g. its fishing heritage.
- The building would also be a support for Newhaven community members, e.g. supporting people who due to age and/or health issues cannot access community lands. Examples include making and installing window-boxes in such residents' homes, the recent 'power of food'/'big lunch' event.
 - It was noted that there is no community space in Newhaven. J Marlborough reported that at a recent community planning event, community space was very much in demand.
- The help NH wants just now is with dissemination of information/consultation, especially via social media.
- It was suggested that there wouldn't necessarily be competition between the putative museum/heritage centre and other nearby attractions.
 - For example, the combined attractions of Newhaven's picturesque harbour, the possible new museum, the Customs House, Leith Theatre could combine to attract visitors.
 - This might help the area not lose its fishing heritage.
- It was suggested that unity between nearby CCs would enable both strength and learning from each other.

3.3 Planning report

See appendix 1. It was noted that the Malt & Hops application was turned down unanimously after a site visit.

4 Election of New Office Bearers

There were no other nominations, so the following were elected *nem con*.

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Second
Chair	Rob Levick	Stewart Auld	Douglas Tharby
Secretary	Jennifer Marlborough	Douglas Tharby	James Duff
Treasurer	Douglas Tharby	Elaine Dick	Robert Weir

- R Weir offered to chair individual meetings if R Levick cannot attend.
- It was discussed how the secretary's role could be made less onerous, e.g. delegating to conveners.
- J Marlborough offered to continue her planning role.
- It was suggested that LHNCC sets up some form of phone contact, e.g. a cheap feature-phone, and advertises its number.
- The outgoing office-bearers were thanked for their service.

5 Approval of Annual Report

See appendix 2. This was approved *nem con*

6 Roles and responsibilities within LHNCC/publicising LHNCC

These discussions were postponed until September due to lack of time.

7 AOCB

D Tharby offered to undertake gathering information on local community groups LHNCC should link with.

8 Date of next Meeting

26 September 2017

Appendix 1: planning report for AGM

16/03684/FUL: Cala Development. Planning permission for proposed residential development including affordable housing provision, landscaping and public realm, parking, access, ancillary commercial/retail units and associated works. | Land 120 Metres South East Of 98 Ocean Drive Edinburgh

14/6/17 I spoke to Craig Dean (Architect) today. They are still working on the Application with regard to Planners wanting retail units at ground level of Apartment Blocks opposite Ocean Terminal and some other issues. It is anticipated that it will not go to meeting until August at earliest - backlog of applications because of Council Elections and time needed to make appointments to committees. Craig said if I phoned him later next week he may have more information.

Application was withdrawn from April meeting by developer to make a decision on way forward with, perhaps, presentation in June but this has not transpired due to factors identified above.p

16/00126/REF (Appeal): Aldi, 10,12,14,16,18,20 Dock Street Edinburgh EH6 6EY. Aldi - Detailed planning application for demolition works and erection of a class 1 retail foodstore and associated car parking, access, landscaping, public realm and other works.

Following appeal - successful, granted in essence.

16/02815/PPP: OCEAN TERMINAL LTD. Proposed Hotel Development and Boardwalk Land at Ocean Terminal, Ocean Drive, Edinburgh. (3/6/16)

Permission in principle granted

14/05127/FUL: At Land 96 Metres South Of 2, Ocean Drive, Edinburgh Residential development consisting of 57 flats providing a mixture of accommodation and tenure as well as associated infrastructure.

LHNCC submitted comments 19/2/15. Planning Application refused 1/2/17. Update Ref. No: 17/00047/REF | Status: Appeal or Review In Progress

16/02868/FUL: Malt & Hops, Land 20 Metres Northwest of 45, Shore, Edinburgh Installation of a 18.5 m x 6.28 m deck with one access gangplank (no founds) on the eastern edge of the Water of Leith basin south of Bernard Street Bridge to allow expansion of the adjacent public house seating area to accommodate a servery, storage and an accessible WC. (as amended)

Application - permission refused 2/6/17

17/01856/FUL | Demolition of existing car garage and erection of new residential block 23 units with associated car parking and landscaping. | 4 Industry Lane Edinburgh EH6 4EZ

LHNCC was not informed of this application, it is on edge of boundary. Informed of concerns by Rod Shearer. I sent comment to LHNCC on 12/6/17. Rod Shearer phoned me and I suggested a late comment can be sent by Community Councils.

Skyliner, Ocean Drive: Prime Residential Site for sale by rettie.co.uk.

Closing date - Thursday 30th. March. Site has not been sold, discussions with interested parties are currently taking place.

06220: Forth Ports, Newhaven Harbour application for pontoon

Permission granted and now completed

Other relevant information

Community Council Joint events attended by members

- June 2016 - joint 'stall' with Leith Central and Leith North and Harbour CCs, at the Leith Festival Gala Day on the Links.
- September 2016 - Edinburgh City Council Welcome Session for new CC Members
- January 2017 - Leith Community Councils social evening - Pub Quiz
- February 2017 - Scottish Government Planning System review/consultation; information evening for Edinburgh Community Councils.
- March 2017 - Policing 2026 consultation event for Edinburgh Community Councils.
- April 2017 - Council Election Hustings
- June 2017 - joint 'stall' with Leith Central and Leith North and Harbour CCs, at the Leith Festival Gala Day on the Links. Jennifer Marlborough 19th. June 2017

Appendix 2: annual report

Membership

A year or so ago the community council membership had dropped to a very low level that prevented it from operating effectively. Following the Community Council election last year however the position is much healthier.

The council is composed of

Office Bearers

Robert Weir	Chair	Rob Levick	Vice Chair
Allan Mackie	Secretary	Bonita Preacher	Treasurer

Other elected and co-opted members (elected September 2016)

Stewart Auld	Colin Brown	Elaine Dick	James F Duff	Blyth McLucas
Jennifer Marlborough		Evie Murray	Douglas Tharby	Arthur Young

Nominated groups (and their representatives)

Friends of Water of Leith (Don Giles)

Newhaven Church (Robert Weir)

Associate and ex-officio members

Bruce Ryan (minutes secretary)

Deidre Brock MP Ben Macpherson MSP

Cllr Adam McVey Cllr Chas Booth Cllr Gordon Munro

The new group of councillors has been extremely active and have made extremely useful contributions to the work of LHNCC. Most importantly the increased number of new members has enabled us to start thinking about how best we can structure the council to meet the increased demands on us, and our forthcoming AGM (27 Jun.) will provide an opportunity to discuss further changes to how we operate. Already we have lead members for Planning and Publicity in the person of Jennifer Marlborough and Elaine Dick respectively. Their input this year has been highly productive and the AGM will provide an opportunity to consider what other functions may be appropriate such as Events Lead/Secretary etc. Blyth McLucas has worked with South Queensferry Community Council in taking this work forward.

The Role of a Community Council

A Community Council consists of local people and interest groups who represent their community. Local views are put forward by the community council to the local authority and other organisations such as Scottish government, NHS Lothian and the police.

Community representation is done by various methods such as communication with the local authority by highlighting issues; meeting public officials; holding public meetings; carrying out surveys; meeting with other community councils; and arranging events to promote Community Council interests and issues.

The local authority has a duty to consult and inform the Community Council on services, licensing and other issues that affect their neighbourhood. A Community Council has a statutory right to be consulted on local planning.

Planning Issues

The proposed development at Waterfront Plaza across from Ocean Terminal has generated considerable interest within the community. We have commented on the planning application and produced and distributed leaflets to the local community setting out the implications of the proposal for the area. We were also involved in discussing the proposal with local residents' associations and representatives of the developer (Cala Homes) and council. We are maintaining a watching brief while the application is withdrawn pending resolution of a number of issues. They are still working on the Application with regard to Planners wanting retail units at ground level of Apartment Blocks opposite Ocean Terminal and some other issues. It is anticipated that it will not go to meeting until August at earliest - backlog of applications because of Council Elections and time needed to make appointments to committees. Application was withdrawn from April meeting by developer to make a decision on way forward with, perhaps, presentation in June but this has not transpired due to factors identified above

We supported other local organisations, including Friends of the Water of Leith basin in opposing the proposal to place a floating pontoon opposite the Malt and Hops pub. While we understand the importance of good leisure facilities in the area we felt that the proposal would not be appropriate within the Leith Conservation Area, would have an inappropriate impact on a number of listed buildings in the area, raised serious questions regarding road safety and would have a potentially negative impact on the Nature Conservation area at the Water of Leith Basin.

We submitted comments on the proposed Hotel Development and Boardwalk at Ocean. Permission in principle was granted

We also responded to a number of other planning applications and supported the proposal to build an Aldi superstore in Dock Street.

Events

We continue to support the Newhaven Gala and the Victoria Primary School Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony practically and financially, having stepped in with additional funding when the council reduced its own commitment. Similarly, we again joined forces with colleagues in Leith Links Community Council for the Leith Gala and providing our gazebos in the process.

Liaison with Police Scotland

Representatives of Police Scotland attend our meetings on a regular basis. There is an ongoing problem with speeding in the Ocean Drive area. The police provide progress reports on this, other local issues, and crime statistics for the area.

Co-operation with Other Community Councils

The LHNCC has continued to promote and consolidate with the other two Community Councils in Leith the co-operation between the Councils by sharing the knowledge and expertise among the members. It is hoped to continue this following the boundary changes and its effect on the working of the Community Councils

A member of the Leith Links CC arranged a teach-in that was given by CEC Planning and Building Standards department. Community Councillors from the three Councils attended and it was agreed that it had been very informative and would help when considering future planning applications.

A similar teach-in, also arranged by Leith Links CC, covering licensing was well attended as again was very helpful in understanding how the Licensing Sub-Committee deals with applications. There was discussion about the number of business licensed to sell alcohol in Leith as a recent report in 2016 to the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership concluded that antisocial behaviour was often link to miss-use of alcohol and over provision.

Other information

In the course of the year members also attended

- An Edinburgh City Council Welcome Session for new CC Members
- A Leith Community Councils social evening involving a pub quiz
- A Scottish Government Planning System review/consultation and information evening for Edinburgh Community Councils
- Policing 2026 consultation event for Edinburgh Community Councils.
- Council Election Hustings

The CC has commented on the continuing development of new housing and reduction of green space in Leith and the impact this is having on the community. It also effects local services and infrastructure such as Emergency, Medical care and Education. In addition, Air Quality continues to be of concern because of areas that fail to meet the national standards and no action is being taken.

Summary of Expenditure to June 2017

Balance carried over		£1314.86
Income	Grant	£845.64
	interest	£0.06
	total	£2260.56
Expenditure	Minutes	£210.00
	printing etc	£516.00
	Leith Gala	£77.97
	Xmas lights	£370.30
	Misc.	£29.50
	Website	£51.46
	Newhaven Gala	£147.00
	total	£1402.23
BALANCE		£758.33