

## LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

*Meeting of Leith Links Community Council, held at Leith Community Centre  
Monday 25 April at 7pm*

*Present: - Jim Scanlon Chair, Gail Clapton, Senga Bethune, Angus Miller, Michael Traill, Adrian Graham, Phil Attridge, Andrew McKenzie, Linda Hutton, Kate Brown (Salamander Court), Susan Dougal & Walter Manclair (Gordon Street Residents), Councillor Adam McVey, Sandy Simpson, Alan Carson Leith Station Inspector, Andrew Johnson, Leith Community Sgt.*

- 1. **Welcome:** Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that LLCC now has four new councillors - Michael Traill, Linda Hutton, Phil Attridge and Adrian Graham and their attendance at various meetings on behalf of LLCC had been agreed.*
- 2. **Apologies:** Deidre Brock MP, Sally Millar, Councillor Chas Booth*
- 3. **Minutes:** Proposed by Senga, seconded by Michael.*
- 4. **Police Report:** Inspector Carson advised that he had no statistical report available but so far it appears to have been a good start to the year, going by the stats he was aware of. He was keen to hear of local concerns and took note that the issues raised around Elbe Street drug dealing and prostitution was still being reported and that Keith Anderson of Port of Leith Housing was also aware. He also took note of two RTA's that had occurred around East Hermitage Place in the last fortnight potentially due to difficulty car have of pulling out onto the road and inconsistent double yellow line markings. It is also not a pedestrian friendly road. Inspection Carson has a meeting scheduled on Thursday with the Community Improvement Partnership (CIP) and he will raise this issue with them. CIP incorporates the Council, Police, and Fire among others and currently meets monthly but Insp Carson is keen to have closer working relationships and wants to get meetings on a weekly basis to identify any hotspot issues/areas. Other issues raised were the concerns around traffic jams at Salamander Place/Links Gardens caused by no clear road marking for bus stops meaning cars impacting on buses and other traffic passing at this junction which also has chicanes and a*

right of way from the left very quickly after a left hand turn into Links Gardens. A crossing patrol warden had reported a number of near incidents. It was suggested one way into Salamander Place might assist. Kate Brown from the Salamander Court Residents Association advised that drug dealing, vandalism and prostitution was worse than ever despite being reported on many occasions to police and local councillors. Inspector Carson is aware others have come along and said the same as him that incidents still need to be reported - if there is no statistical evidence it will not show there is any problems. Senga suggested one of the prostitute liaison officers could speak to Kate and discuss other issues such as building security. Kate had advised that some of the residents were vulnerable and others scared to make reports and Senga also suggested that they could call Crimestoppers which is anonymous but any crime would be referred to the police to action. Insp Carson confirmed that police boundaries would now match Council boundaries and while there are going to be restrictions in the Council resources, police requests will be met. Councillor McVey pointed out there was a burnt out car at Salamander Court that needs to be removed and that was taken away as an action point. There is on-going prostitution activity in Gordon Street and Chair mentioned that brighter lighting at Salamander Place/Links Gardens has led to females going further down Salamander Place or loitering at the bus stop pretending to be waiting on a bus and a black Mercedes has been seen regularly in the area with possible criminal behaviour occurring in the car park off Salamander Place. Senga took time to comment favourably on an incident where police had responded well to a serious domestic abuse assault on the Links and Chair also thanked police for their response to a large gathering of youths with fireworks on the Links recently who were dispersed quickly and safely. Gail commented that a more local focussed police report would be useful rather than a city wide feedback; however the current stats available are citywide. It was noted that different CC's expect different reports. Insp Carson welcomes honest reporting good or bad to him and relies on local knowledge to assist him. Finally, Senga commented that she would rather police took action rather than turning up at her door to take statements.

**5. Treasurer/Secretary Report:** Angus advised there was nothing to report from the Treasurer and there was around £2000 in the account. Senga reported back on a successful International Woman's Day which LLCC had given £300 to. Mary's Meals benefited from monies raised at the event and Senga is keen to get the other local CC's involved. Next year it will not be at Thomas Morton Hall and Senga had suggested the Custom House as this would have an overall community benefit. Gail advised on planning applications noting that Aldi had submitted one for their development in Commercial Street. This is not LLCC area but additional traffic could impact on the whole of Leith. Senga was approached by a local hotel owner about business representation and she has directed her towards Keith with the potential for a new Leith Business Association to restart.

**6. Update on Recent Meetings:** At the Leith Regeneration Steering Group Senga and Gail had again raised the issues of the broken bollards at the chicane near Links Gardens as well as the cycle paths and general state of the Links but there seems to be little action on the part of Murray or Fiona to any of these issues. Sally has volunteered to man the stall for LLCC at the Leith Gala this year but volunteers are needed from the other CC's too.

**7. Planning:** Chair advised that the planned development at Salamander Place has the potential to house up to 3000 individuals and there is also now plans for a development at Ocean Terminal by Cala all of which have no declared infrastructure such as schools, doctors or greenspace to cope with these extra residents. The planning meeting explained that developers have a responsibility to provide funding to Councils to cover infrastructure costs but they are in a position of having to commit to building and getting sales before having money to give to Councils. Chair suggested a joint approach from all three Leith CC's and he plus one other from LLCC could take this forward. Sally was suggested however she was not at the meeting so Michael agreed to take this forward if she is not available. Councillor McVey advised that any approach or appeal had to be point driven on key areas on the development plans otherwise it might end up being a paper exercise. Stats are needed, plus technical aspects rather than just a general action plan. Questions such as how the money

from Section 75 is going to be used. Chair suggested that for the LLCC AGM in May, an invitation be extended to get a presentation on the Salamander development and he will take this forward.

**8. Open Floor:** A Links Gardens resident raised an issue about bins on Links Gardens being used for trade waste and queried why they were on the housing side of the street. Action should be to report any use of residential bins for trade waste to the environmental wardens and if evidence is found the culprits will receive a serious fine. CC can and will contact on behalf of local residents. Councillor McVey will also raise the issue of moving the bins. The resident also mentioned that at the rear of the McNair Hotel a log burner had been installed which is having an environmental impact on her and others in the area with both smell and smoke. A complaint can be made via the Building Control page on the Council website and the resident was also given the number to phone. Although the Council now has limited wardens but if public health is involved they should respond. The resident was asked to report back on any action or inaction. Phil discussed the licensing forum policy and explained it was working with residents and businesses with new applications being stronger on soundproofing covering live music and noise from patrons. The proposals of zoning are common across Europe and he recommends the LLCC support it and this was agreed since it will also reflect those individuals who have no control over a choice of accommodation. A response will be placed on Facebook, Twitter, and LLCC website and also at the Gala Day. Michael made a general call for volunteers for the Gala Day and also stated there was a litter pick organised for Saturday 11 June as 12 starting at the Seafield end of the cycle path. Kate advised there was another litter pick on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May at the Shore, organised by Gerry Farrell of Leithers Don't Litter. Chair will also have these days put on the LLCC website and social media. While it is not the LLCC area, Insp Carson also took note of reports of a camp having been set up at Seafield and Adrian's report of a burnt out car on a skate park in the same area.

**Date of Next Meeting:** AGM 30 May 2016 7pm Leith Community Centre, Persevere Room