



Note of Leith Chooses Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 8 May 2019, 3-5pm

McDonald Road Library Business Hub

Present

Cllr Susan Rae (Chair)
Caroline Lamond
Don Giles
Douglas Tharby
Sally Millar
Sabrina Tickle

Elected Member
Lifelong Learning Service Manager
Leith Harbour & Newhaven C. Council
Leith Harbour & Newhaven C. Council
Leith Links Community Council
Sikh Sanjog

Item		Action
1	Welcome , especially new member Sabrina, Youth Development Manager at Sikh Sanjog.	
2	Apologies Cllr Amy Reece-Mechan, George Fyvie, Bruce Ryan	
3	Minutes of 1.5.19 Adopted	
4.	Matters Arising Cllr Rae had heard that the new Neighbourhood Network is expected to function much like old Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and is likely to have Community Grants Fund money to distribute, presumably by PB. But presumably the local community should be having its say about what/how it wants the new NN to work, rather than having it 'imposed'? Similarly, community would have to agree to PB participation, CEC can't just take it for granted. Point made that those who have experience of running successful PB events in the community (eg. Leith Chooses) know how much it costs, in both money and volunteer/work terms. Council will need to resource PB properly if it wants it to keep happening. E.g. more money for Community Councils, more CEC staff resources. Caroline confirmed date of first NN meeting is 30th May 6pm-8pm, venue still to be decided. Agreed that SG members should attend if possible, to provide a strong PB presence. Sally will bring Leith Chooses pull-up banner. Caroline is attending the CEC PB Working Group (led by Michelle Mulvanney, which may	CL SM ALL

	dictate a different approach. This group apparently has no 'Terms of Reference', and includes no elected Councillors. Susan will enquire about these two issues. Council-led PB on a large scale is likely to be online only, so very different from the very 'hands-on' community model developed in Leith. Leith might be in a position to 'test run' new PB software? COSLA Excellence Award, deadline for applications is 31 May. www.cosla.gov.uk/applications-2019-cosla-excellence-awards-are-now-open/ Don & Douglas will look at the guidance and help with suggestions. Susan will get the application pack.	SR DG, DT SR
5. Action:	Evaluation Survey Monkey SM is meeting BR face to face tomorrow to finalise the Survey in line with the edits discussed in SG last week, and it should then be ready to go online before next week.	SM, BR
6. Action:	Writing LC 'Manual' Discussed format, and agreed to have a short 'historical' introduction at the beginning. While agreeing we want to keep the main sections clear and simple, it was agreed that it cannot be limited purely to 'This is how to do it' - it is important to briefly cover WHY we did what we did (including mention of previous approaches that may have failed), otherwise others could keep 're-inventing the wheel, inefficiently, and perhaps with poor results. Please see Minutes of 6 th March for Section Leads: Applications – Caroline; Event – Charlotte (& others?); Voting – Sally, Don; Media/Comms/Logistics – Douglas, Debbie. Susan will provide a 'one voice edit' on the final version.	ALL
7. ACTIONS	Steering Group Membership Bruce Ryan expects to be available after May 2019, to continue in SG. Has been helping Caroline with Timeline. Susan has been in contact with Monty Roy of the Leith Police Box, but she is away just now. Hoping for a conversation or email soon to invite her to become SG member. Caroline is very busy. SG (SR) offered to help by drafting email for Caroline to then send out to all project groups inviting more people to volunteer for SG. George - contact details for various church groups, possible source of volunteers? Still on the table that members of SG should go and talk face to face with groups esp. ethnic minority groups e.g. MILAN, Shakti, Saheliya, Feniks, MWAE / Amina etc. to explore possibilities for their participation in some way	SR SR CL SM/GF various
8. ACTION:	Grant Reports from Previous Winners Caroline did not have exact breakdown on her, but informed the SG that a number of groups have not yet reported (on 2018/19 projects) and will have to be 'chased up'. This will be her next priority after progressing payment of grants to 2019 project groups. All groups will be sent a reminder. What, if anything, can SG can do to help get reports in? Don stressed that if local PB is to develop in future, we need to be seen to have a robust system in place for accountability. Leith Decides was weak in this area, but things need to	CL

	be tightened up. Expectations of applicants need to be changed.	
9.	AOB Douglas reported on the 'Meet the Funders' event in Pilton. Useful event, but rather small. Agreed that this would be a good thing to do in Leith at some point, on a bigger scale? (SG to organize?) Links quite well with the 'Volunteer Fair' organized for 7th June, Leith Community Centre, which hopefully members of SG can attend – good way to engage with community, make contact with community groups etc. Sally reported that YRPRI software company have still not sent their invoice (£300) and there are a few other outstanding items to tidy up, that crossed over into the current financial year, but basically, the main accounts are complete and funds for PB in the Leith Links Community Council account are now reduced to a minimal level. Scottish Government has just advertised a new fund, called 'Investing in Communities' (which is basically a 'rolling together' of several existing initiatives/funds, including the Community Choices Fund). Community Councils and community groups are allowed to apply, but not local authorities (though they can be partners??) They have a total of £11m, successful applicants could get £250,000 over a three year project. This seems like a good opportunity for Leith, potentially – but it would not be a straightforward application for PB funds (for projects or support) as in past years, but would require a much bigger partnership and a more complex project design. Unclear if this is feasible, who should be partnering, who could lead an application etc. Does not seem an option for Leith Chooses, at least in its current form. Deadline for applications is 14 June 2019	ALL
10.	Date of next meeting - Wednesday 15 May 3pm, McDonald Road Library Business Hub as usual.	ALL