

Feith Chooses Steering Group

Zoom Meeting 3 pm-4 pm Wednesday 20 May

Present – Bruce, Caroline (by phone), Douglas, Don, Sally, Susan

Finance issue

Caroline reported that all the groups have now definitely been paid. She has made a 'complaint' to Evelyn about Finance failing to release the funds to two groups. Finance is looking into why/ how this happened and will write a report.

LC SG will await that report with interest. We need to know where in the chain the process broke down, how it happened, and what is being done to prevent it happening again.

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Follow Up with 2019/2020 groups

Steering Group is now in contact with all groups, as DIY Skateparks (James) has now responded.

Current status of 2019/2020 projects

A. The following project (1) has been touch, but unclear as yet what their position/plan is.

Pilmeny (Caroline),

ACTION – Send out 'gentle reminder' asking them how they are getting on with forming new plans

B. The following Projects (3) are steaming ahead fine with modified projects.

YMCA (Bruce), Citadel (Don), NE Food Bank (Douglas)

ACTION: Each named person as relevant to check / confirm that each project group has had an 'official' approval email back from Feith Chooses, via their named person.

C. The following projects (3) had been saying that they planned to 'hold back' money and delay project etc. but are now committed to thinking proactively about project modifications aiming to spend the funding more quickly. Projekt 42 (Sally), MCFB (Bruce), DIY Skateparks

ACTION – Leave them for a wee while. Prod them further if nothing received by next meeting (27th May).

DIY Skateparks – currently has no Plan B, was hoping just to wait until things back to normal.

Nobody at the skatepark just now, lessons obviously off the table. Building woodwork and construction skills might be easiest to develop as an approach, but this is not what the project was supposed to be about (which was food and fighting social isolation). Very small classes? Skills videos? Partnering with other groups to distribute food? Directing some teenage skaters to Citadel video games club? James will go off and think about it /discuss with colleagues.

D. The following (3) have submitted tentative modified project plans, but these require some further discussion as their first thoughts are not yet in the form of an acceptable alternative project. ELREC (Sally), FENIKS (Douglas), Dr. Bells (Don)

ACTION: The named persons will pursue discussions with these groups and try to help formation of a workable plan that stays within the spirit of the 'themes' and/or response to COVID 19 situation

Dr. Bells – Don is in discussion with them. He was impressed by the enthusiasm of staff and the fact that they are already very highly engaged with 'their' families.

Feniks – suggesting offering online classes in cooking and art, and meeting online to talk about memories - they still need to work out how to do this. Also now (instead of bus trip) thinking of

offering English lessons to older people and asking if it would be OK to pay a teacher from Poland or elsewhere if suitable teacher can't be found more locally.

SG unhappy about this last proposal. Douglas will urge them to try and find someone more locally (even though it will be online). Caroline suggested Heather Muchamore could help with this (only she's off sick currently). Caroline will try and provide another contact from the Adult Education Team. There is already a strong network of English as a Second Language (and also Literacy) classes locally and it would be better for Feniks to develop those links.

ELREC – they are suggesting abandoning their original project and swapping over to a craft –based project (to protect mental health in lockdown). This would be a continuation of a project they have already run. SG felt this was not appropriate and that they needed to come up with something closer to the original LC themes. If they can do craft online perhaps they could do cooking / sharing stories etc. online? Caroline did however note that 'lack of craft materials' had been identified as an issue by staff exploring 'community resilience'. Could they approach issues surrounding food or social isolation *through the medium of art*?

There was a discussion about people in Leith who still lack the basic tech equipment (and/or possibly skills) to allow them to benefit from online activities, whether this is education sent out from schools or possibly LC projects. Caroline noted that community groups such as 'People Know How' have been refurbishing computers and getting them out to people. (Remakery also). Are the BME families ELREC support (most?) likely to need help with accessing technology?

Things to explore.

What craft material were ELREC proposing to buy, why so expensive? To do what with, exactly?

Does ELREC deal with the same families as Dr. Bells, MCFB etc.?

Was their original project not mainly aimed at older age groups, rather than kids?

What technical / online capacities does ELREC have? Would a project aimed at improving families technical know how and online capabilities be useful?

ACTION: Sally will discuss with them.

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2020/2021

Steering Group plans to proactively ask for the Community Funds for 2021, with a 'Plan of Action' about how LC 2021 will be delivered (in the face of a worry that if we just 'cancel' Leith Chooses for 2021, it might never be reinstated). We agreed that we would need to get started on something straight away, ready to launch in August /September. Can't be 'caught out' unprepared in, eg. October, by Council. **Agreed deadline of 28th June for formulation of Leith Chooses Plan 2021**

Key questions from Susan:

If LeithChooses 2021 goes ahead, what format will that take?

Will Covid response play a key role?

What issues do we want to address with funding?

What will we be asking those who apply to achieve with their funding?

What will our aims, goals and objectives be as a steering group / team?

And then there is the perennial 'how do folk cast their vote' issue.

Obviously, we are almost at the point of approaching Evelyn regarding securing finance which may be difficult. I think we would be better placed to secure it if we have a clear vision and a plan going forward that will fit with the recovery plan.

Bruce noted that PB Scotland has prepared a resource pack / strategy for introducing PB in schools, to develop democracy. It would be possible to support the schools – say, the 2 Secondary Schools in Leith (or is it three? Trinity Academy?) in running their own PB on issues that the kids identify as important to them. This idea was not greeted with enthusiasm because of the pre-existing feeling that schools already benefit greatly (some say too much) from Leith Chooses.

Caroline had submitted some thoughts, which everyone found helpful.

Theme(s) – based around priorities shaped by COVID 19? Or basic needs?

Voting Options:

Consul – could we use a CEC account or get one ourselves? Would need agreement from CEC either way, if money is to be allocated to ‘winners’ voted online.

ACTION – Could Caroline identify who to speak to in CEC that knows most about what’s happening with Consul?

We didn’t think a ‘walk through’ in-person voting system would work.

Downloadable ballot paper sent to a generic mailbox is a new idea, probably preferable to postal voting. BUT – wide open to fraud (like postal voting), and also would exclude people on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Might there be some way of ensuring that the ballot paper could only be downloaded once from the same computer?

ACTION– Caroline - check that question out with IT?

ACTION: All members will continue to consider this matter and note down ideas, in preparation for further brain storming discussions eg at next week’s meeting.

Next Meeting – 27th May 3pm. Possibly outdoors, socially distancing in allotment area at the back of Susan’s block (Spey Terrace). Weather permitting TBC