

Leith Chooses Steering Group

Skype Meeting 3-4 pm Wednesday 22 July

Present –Bruce, Caroline, Don, Douglas, Sally, Susan

Leith Chooses 2021

Scoping Paper

The Scoping Paper has been sent off and Evelyn Kilmurry has replied. She is fully supportive and will try and get back to us with the information we asked about, asap. Difficult period as various people, including Evelyn are on holiday.

Caroline has established that the Community Grants line is still in the budget for next year. She is currently getting Finance Dept. to move the two delayed payments back from this year's accounts into last years accounts, where they belong.

The only thing that could remove this budget would be a drastic change of direction by elected Councillors - unlikely; such a decision would cause a significant backlash.

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Meeting discussed possible approaches to the Leith community in August, to get the process going and try to home in on themes (even while admitting that the methodologies are still unclear).

Susan suggested using '**Build Back Better**' as the strap line for next year's process – agreed.

Caroline suggested using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs as a point of reference, to show that our choices are based on research and evidence (not just 'made up'). It is quite old (1943) and refers to individuals rather than to communities, but it is still useful.

Previous themes have included the following, all based on '**reducing inequalities**'

Fighting hunger

Fighting loneliness

Supporting vulnerable people

Food

New suggestions

Environment has been suggested as another theme that is overdue – maybe not so in line with CEC policies.

Black Lives Matter was mentioned, as was '*Steps to integrate / 'build bridges' between the different ethnic communities in Leith*

Homelessness and Poverty were mentioned as two of the most acute needs

Also - some way of taking this unique opportunity created by Covid19, to build on peoples recent experiences and ask them to think about what is needed in Leith, post Covid, to *build back better*, and new ways to do outreach, to reach the people that really need help.

To get people discussing the BIG questions like 'Why are people hungry, in this rich country?' (These are 'political' questions) and to empower people, give more people in Leith a voice.

According to the Index of multiple deprivation at least 20% of people in Leith suffer poverty, in pockets (geographically)

How to connect with the most vulnerable?

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Food

Find out more about how the organisations delivering food, find out who needs food?

Contact all the organisations delivering food and ask them what they think the most urgent issues are, or ideas>?

Eg. Empty Kitchens Full Hearts, NE Foodbank, Building Bridges, Steps to Hope, Sikh Sanjog, ELREC, Citadel, others?

If going with a 'food' theme, ask them to submit project ideas / bids?

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Tasks

SG members were tasked with going away and thinking up as many questions as possible, to form a first draft of a survey that we can put out to the Leith Community, to get the ball rolling.

Bear in mind when forming questions – what do we actually want to find out? What kind of answers can we actually deal with?

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Next Meeting – Wednesday 29 July 3pm. By Skype

NB Caroline will not be available for most of July, so important that we move current matters forward asap,