

Leith Chooses Steering Group
Minutes of Meeting (Skype)
3-4.45pm Wednesday 23 September 2020

1. Attendees: Caroline Lamond, Sally Millar, Bruce Ryan, Douglas Tharby, Don Giles

Apologies – Susan Rae, Emma Candy

2. Community Survey

Bruce will receive results after 28th September, analyse and bring the results to Steering Group asap. (Might need to prompt Emma Candy to send them over on 29th?)

Hopefully results can be discussed on 30 September at next LC SG meeting.

3. Voting age – should it be raised it to 12?

This matter was thoroughly discussed, following last week's initial exploration of the topic. The age of criminal responsibility on Scotland has now been raised from 8 to 12 years. Steering Group unanimously agreed that there were many compelling reasons for keeping it at 8 years, including:

- Involving 8+ years in LC is a brilliant way to teach younger children about community and about the democratic process ('citizenship' in the curriculum). Active meaningful learning.
- Involving 8+ years is a way to draw in parents and other family members and increase the number of people participating.
- Ruling out under 12s effectively means totally excluding the Primary schools from Leith Chooses, which would be bad, as they have always played a very active part in the process.
- The Leith Community is used to it being 8 and, in the main, strongly supports this.
- The age of criminal responsibility need not concern us as Leith Chooses has nothing to do with criminality. Having said that - the age of criminal responsibility essentially means 'knowing right from wrong'. How do children learn this? Arguably, one element could be through taking part in community events, seeing good role models, and being trusted to take responsibility for making good choices / decisions etc. – not banning them from such events.....

4. Leith Chooses 2021 Planning

Online Voting via Consultation Hub

Meeting agreed that the Consultation Hub is now looking good enough to 'do the job' and that online voting WILL after all be a viable possibility for Leith Chooses 2021. (Caroline happy as this could also be used as a template for other potential PB processes and bring much more democracy across different areas of the city and different demographics.)

Discussion on the various versions of the structure - meeting agreed unanimously a preference for structure 3

Detailed discussion, page by page, resulted in numerous comments and questions about the structure which will be collated and fed back asap to Emma / Julie. (separate document).

Agreed that the next stage after that is to edit the text and make suggestions about the design / layout / presentation, to make it as accessible as possible. Best to do this via circulation of a text document to allow for comments and suggested changes.

Panel? Online Meeting(s)

Would we need any panel – extended or otherwise - if online voting is possible? Agreed to wait and see from survey results whether or not there is much of an appetite amongst local people, to get more involved.

We could perhaps just have one 'community meeting' to share information and make people feel involved?

Next meeting of Neighbourhood Network will be too late – if we have a meeting it will need to be in 1st or 2nd week of October.

Themes

The following was agreed:

Over-arching tag line is '**Build Back Better**', based as before on Council priority of '**reducing inequalities**'

- ***Fighting hunger***
- ***Fighting loneliness/ ensuring connectedness***

5. Application Process

Application forms should be ready to go out by mid- October.

Caroline will send out a copy of the current Application form so that we can consider updates and possible revisions needed. Need to be very transparent, including making groups aware of (1) the revised / updated 'Council Conditions of Grant', and (2) that they cannot apply this coming year if they have not spent and reported on their grant / project for the current year. The latter condition may effectively rule out a number of the 'usual' applicants.

6. Reports from 2019/2020 process

Meeting agreed that members will each contact their two designated 2 mentee projects asap to remind them kindly that it is time to start getting their final report together if possible, and also that they cannot apply this coming year unless / until they have spent and reported on their grant / project for the current year.

Caroline will send members of the SG copies of the Report form as groups may have lost these.

ELREC has already submitted report but not financial records. Don has been speaking to Dr. Bells recently. Douglas has had update from NE Foodbank.

7. AOCB

- PB Scotland / Scottish Government PB Strategy Group** - Angus Hardie is on this group. SG agreed to invite him to a future meeting to tell us about the work of the Strategy group and also to ensure that he listens to Feith Chooses voice, as he is apparently being expected to 'represent' LC.
- Local radio** - Kevin Mcleod of local (internet) radio offered to help LC. Meeting agreed to invite him to a future meeting.
- Caroline drew group's attention to new University Community Grant scheme.
- Sally has proposed a motion to all three Leith Community councils to ask each for £50 per annum from each to fund the Feith Chooses website hosting, domain name and potential FaceBook boosts. This is the only way that the 'community' end of Feith Chooses can communicate with the community, directly and independently of the Council. So far LH& N have agreed. LLCC meets next week.