

# Leith Chooses meeting 13 March 2024

Present: Jade, Douglas, Abigail, Jack, Bruce (minutes), Sally, Don

Apologies: Tremaine, Susan

## 1 **SCDC event this morning**

- SCDC has a 'participatory charter'. LC steering group (SG) could use this to examine itself, in preparation for evaluation by/for CEC.

## 2 **Future of CEC community grants**

- There will be community grants in 2024-25.
- It is likely that they will continue in future years.

## 3 **2023-24 LC processes**

- All paperwork is now with CEC finance.
  - Action: Jade to check next week that projects have received their grants.
  - Hermitage Park is thrilled that it was funded, but sad that this was because SHE Scotland closed down.

### 3.1 **Feedback**

- Action: Jade to invite organisations that were and were not funded, and any who tried to apply to give feedback on the 2023-24 process.
  - Action: SG to help with this task, if needed. (This will depend on how many reply.)

### 3.2 **Reports from 2022-23 funded projects**

- Action: Jade to ask all these projects to report, using the standard form, by 31 March.
  - Action: Jade to consider how SG can help with this.
- It was noted that SG has not previously seen such reports, and that such reporting in all of CEC community grants may be patchy. However, Jade does check whether reports are outstanding when considering current applications. There have been projects funded by community-grants (not in not LeithChooses) spending grants inappropriately and hence being made to return them.
  - Action: SG to consider if this process can be made better/easier for projects.
  - Action: SG to consider how to add 'you must have reported on previous projects to be eligible for future applications to LC' to the rules for applicants, along with the facts that LC is to be evaluated by CEC, and that money is tight.
    - I assume this should be read as 'reported and shown money was spent appropriately'.
  - Action: Jade to redact any personal contact details from 2021-2022 and 2022-23 reports, then share them with SG via Dropbox.
  - There was some discussion of maintaining a list of organisations who have not reported, in the context of succession-planning for LC.
- Action: SG to consider how to use reports as positive publicity for PB, and as a form of transparency, as promised in Community Conversations.

### 3.3 **Citadel**

- Action: Jack, Susan to chase Cllr Day about his statement that Citadel should receive funding because its application was lost in email.
  - Action: Jade to check whether a council leader can just decide that a group should be funded.

## 4 2024-25 and onwards

### 4.1 Timing and meetings

- Action: Bruce to draft a month-by-month timetable showing the main focus for each month.
  - See draft in the appendix.
- SG will continue the weekly meetings.

### 4.2 Future themes

- Action: Jade to check whether CEC has a climate-change fund, so LC doesn't risk duplicating themes

### 4.3 2023-24 voting data analysis, voting demographics

- Action: SG to consider how best to use this analysis
- It was clear that LC doesn't attract as many young votes as it should/would like.
  - Action: SG to consider how it can engage with schools.  
It was noted that while pupil councils have been enthusiastic about LC, they were very doubtful that their fellows were interested.
- While the voting data does not cover ethnicities, there are questions about whether people of minority ethnicities are even aware of LC.
  - It was noted that when people from minorities had been encouraged to join community bodies, they were left without support and hence did not stay long.
  - Action: Abby to make a date with Destiny church.
  - Action: LC to engage with ELREC (perhaps [Parveen Ishaq](#)) about outreach to minorities.
  - Action: LC to engage with Anita Aggarwal about working with small charities.
    - There was some discussion of partnership in applications for LC. It was agreed that such applications would still possible but in no way insisted on.

### 4.4 Size of grants

- CEC community grants are limited to £5000 per grant, unless permission is obtained from the relevant CEC committee. (This followed from discussion of whether there could be bigger grants, perhaps for partnership applications.)
  - This would require a full report making a recommendation and demonstrating the need.
  - It is not clear whether such limit-increases could be for just LC, or whether they would be for all CEC community grants.
  - Each CEC area's total community grant fund is based on its total population. It is likely that these will be updated according to updated population data every 2-3 years.
  - It was suggested that social circumstances should be taken into account in these processes.

### 4.5 SG membership

- Action: SG members to attempt to recruit new colleagues.
  - Jade is also attempting to seek community grant decision makers for other parts of Edinburgh, so may use this to attempt to advertise for more SG members – and nudge for PB 😊

## 5 Appendix: draft monthly focus-timetable

|           |                                                                    |          |                                                                                             |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April     | use reports to publicise LC and PB, and prepare for CEC evaluation | October  | vetting applications, support for applicants                                                |
| May       | outreach to young people, ethnic minorities                        | November | start preparations for voting                                                               |
| June      |                                                                    | December | voting preparation, including project gallery                                               |
| July      | start preparations for this round                                  | January  | voting                                                                                      |
| August    | application form, guidance/rules                                   | February | announcement of results/awards event, voting analysis                                       |
| September | support for applicants                                             | March    | grant distribution, evaluation event, request reports from projects funded in previous year |