

Leith Chooses meeting 10 April 2024

Present: Jack, Douglas, Sally, Jade, Bruce (minutes), Abi*, Susan*, Tremaine* (* = online)

Apologies: none

1 Reports from 2022-23 fundees, i.e. projects running in 2023-24

- 8 of 12 reports received so far
 - Sikh Sanjog is facing issues, so has not yet send in its report.
 - Himalayan Centre is asking for another month to complete its report. (There was discussion of some structural issues in this organisation.)

2 Reports from 2021-22 fundees, i.e. projects running in 2022-23

- Nepal Association has not reported, so was not eligible to apply for funding in the 2023-24 round.

3 Disbursement of funds from 2023-24 round

- All funded organisations apart from Hermitage Park have now received their funds. (HP was funded late, due to SHE Scotland closing down.)

4 PB elsewhere

- The Scottish Green party has adopted PB, using a PB process in which branch members voted to select 3 Edinburgh projects to receive funding (between £5000 and £1000). The projects funded in this way included one about sewing and banner-creation and another about bees.
 - Action: Susan to either write a piece for LC's website or get a branch member to do so.
 - Action: Susan to attempt to supply voting stats.

5 Increasing LC's diversity

- Abi is in contact with Parveen of ELREC about this.
 - Action: Abi to suggest that Parveen comes to an LC meeting on 24 April or 1 May 2024.

6 Community grants in Edinburgh

- A recent press release stated that community grants funds are available across Edinburgh, so Jade and Tremaine's team has received several requests for grants.
 - One enquiry is from the Afghan Association: although this covers all of Edinburgh, it says that the majority of its work is in Leith because that is where most Afghan Edinburghers are.
 - Action: Jade to follow this up.
- The press-release did not make it clear enough that all of Leith's community grant funding is disbursed by LeithChooses. The relevant CEC web-page says only 'For Information on the Leith Community Grants Fund please visit the Leith Chooses website.' Neither that CEC web-page nor LC's only website have basic description of LC's cycle.
 - Actions: Sally to draft such a description; Bruce to check it; both to ensure it goes online.
 - Action: Jade to add such information to the CEC web-page, along with (1) why Leith is different to other areas; (2) LC contact details.

7 PB Charter

- LC needs to evaluate itself to show that CEC should continue to disburse community grants via this instance of PB.
 - One way of doing so is evaluation against an external standard. The only one we know of is PB Scotland's PB Charter: <https://pbscotland.scot/charter/features>.
 - It may also help that Cllr Bandel's research shows that LC is the top instance of PB in Scotland.

- LC had reflected on its compliance with the charter in 2019. See for example, Bruce's assessment at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4h1c79z3jaitvsdx2oetm/PB-Charter-compliance-V3-BMR.xlsx?rlkey=upcj9qcns0pq2lykh237k9jln&dl=0>. It is now opportune to do so again.
 - Action: Bruce to check his spreadsheet still matches the charter, then send a blank copy to all LC colleagues. This blank copy should include a column where colleagues can say why they have awarded the scores they chose, or add any other comments.
 - Action: all LC members to assess LC using this spreadsheet's first four 'features', making clear what we are not doing in the 'fair and inclusive', 'participatory', 'deliberative', 'empowering' features.
 - Action: Bruce to collate assessments.
- During this discussion, it was asked whether LC's website is fully accessible.
 - Action: Bruce to use a free accessibility checker.