

Leith Chooses meeting 8th May 2024

Present: Don, Tremaine, Douglas, Jack, Jade, Bruce, Susan* (* = Online)

1 Update on 2024-25 grants

Jade now recovered, catching up. All groups but Hermitage Park have received funding. (CEC has had issues with its internal admin/tech). HP will get an 'immediate' payment, and will be allowed time in lieu to complete.

Should report within 2 months of project finish (but will get extension if late payment). Won't go into next financial year.

Evaluation of community grants is underway, focus group on Monday for CEC staff, about evolution of fund. May be questionnaire for funding panel members (to go live Monday)

2 Evaluation and outside engagement

Bruce reports on contact with Parveen/ELREC

- Action: Bruce to familiarise himself with relevant groups, university part of Edinburgh Partners (People Knowhow)
- Action: Bruce to review our [Digital Divide Commitment](#). Issues are money, reliable wifi in substandard accommodation, attitudes, overcrowding/lack of privacy to do confidential work.

Discussion about outreach via LeithGala - but fear of conflation/confusion with community councils, and do BME folk know about/go to gala anyway? There are precedents of difficulty of bringing ethnic minority groups into LC.

Discussion of BME group experience of LC, e.g. Sikh Sanjog. BME groups need to understand what LC is about, and then calculate if the potential benefits (max £5000) of taking part outweigh the costs.

Are other parts of community grant set-up taking such issues into account? They look at range of grants reaching different types of minority.

Discussion of reasons for LC, i.e. enhancing democracy, and whether it influences CEC, and CEC's (lack of) support for PB/LC, and Consul software. The steering group did not believe Consul's additional features would assist with the 'Deliberative' questions/features in the Evaluation as we would be responsible for hosting negative content about applicants, which would both be unfair to applicants and potentially compromise our neutrality.

Discussion about parallel PBs, including the Climate Change one.

- Action: Jade will update the Steering Group on the 'PB Evaluation' meeting scheduled for 6th June.

The Steering Group review the second draft of our Evaluation we are submitting to Andrew Field and SG members are asked to review further offline. Sally and Bruce will liaise re formatting.

Deadline for evaluation report is the last week of May.