

Leith Chooses meeting 11 September 2024

Present: Bruce (minutes), Don, Douglas, Jack, Susan

Apologies: Tremaine, Sally, Naomi

Actions are green-highlighted

1 Catch-up on last week's actions

1.1 Likely applicants

- **Meetings with Hibs organisations**
 - See report from Sally in appendix.
 - Susan added the following points:
 - There was concern that there are a lot of 'linked' organisations. LC representatives were clear that we don't want an avalanche of Hibs-related applications, and that any proposed project must be about supporting the people of Leith [and presumably fitting with the theme of **Leith Uniting**]. A further meeting will focus on what actual project Hibs Charitable Foundation will propose.
 - Susan has also met with the separate 'non-corporate' Hibs supporters body, who might also apply to LeithChooses, and has the necessary constitution, bank account etc to be technically able to apply to LC. However, it has already established a connection with Leith Gala Day, so may not apply to LC.
- **Living Rent**
 - This organisation has recently extended its remit to safety and environmental topics. Its Leith branch is its widest branch.

1.2 Extending range of potential applicants

- It appears the following actions have been done as much as possible:
 - Action: all to add to the list at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8tddqw4aatyyk4jndlfgp/Leith-Chooses-Targeted-Organisation-List.xlsx?rlkey=hypqw8ngfl8drofyx196p5bug&dl=0>
 - Action: all to add specific comms needs to the list if there are any
- Reporting on the following action was held over:
 - Action: Tremaine, Naomi to send relevant comms
- Susan and Jack will have completed the following actions by the end of today
 - Action: Susan to email LC-relevant Cllrs to ask for their suggestions for additions
 - Action: Jack to provide them with relevant info: application forms etc
- Reporting on the following action was held over:
 - Action: Sally to add 'beginner's guide to LC' to website

1.3 Physical prep

- Reporting on the following action was held over:
 - Action: Tremaine to chase up David McNaughton re t-shirts etc

1.4 Mapping

- Bruce has created a graphic map of the LC area (and wishes CEC to provide shape files of the NP boundaries so he can create an online searchable map)
 - Action: Bruce to add this map to the LC website.

2 Reporting from previous years

- Reporting on the following was held over:
 - Himalayan Centre has responded to request for report, but not delivered report itself.
 - Sikh Sanjog has promised report 'asap' a week ago

3 Appendix: record of Meeting Between Leith Chooses and Lewis Melee of Hibs Charitable Foundation, 6 September (online)

Present: Lewis Melee, Cllr. Susan Rae (Chair, Leith Chooses), Naomi Dixon (Community Engagement, CEC), Sally Millar (Leith Chooses)

Hibs 150th Anniversary is 6th August 2025, a year of events is in planning.

Lewis wanted to know whether the theme of Leith Chooses (Leith Uniting) might encompass events within that - yes, potentially. Lewis has ideas about event or events to bring people together, eg. sharing memories of Hibs through the years etc.

There are 2 official linked groups - Hibs Charity Foundation and Hibs Historical Trust (also the HanlonStevenson Foundation but that has a slightly different focus)

Cllr Rae had also heard informally that the Hibs Supporters Club might be planning (an) event(s). Unclear whether or not they are actually eligible (charity? Constitution? Bank account?).

It's also possible that other groups might also have ideas about events eg. links with RC church, or womens football etc. etc.

Obviously the normal Council 'vetting' of applicants would weed out applicants to Leith Chooses that are ineligible on formal grounds, but there may be a 'grey area'. Groups might be eligible in the formal sense, and yet it would be undesirable for several different groups to all apply to Leith Chooses for different, separate events but all to do with the Hibs 150 Anniversary (these might not be exact duplicates but there would be overlap). This would not be in the spirit of Leith Chooses (for further discussion in LC SG) and would potentially skew the whole PB and voting process (as Hibs linked projects might well attract a very large segment of the overall vote), and could also be damaging for such applicants as they might split the vote and end up competing against each other, anyway.

This is first time a situation like this has arisen for Leith Chooses, i.e. big event(s) clearly affecting the Leith community

LC team urged Lewis to try to establish some kind of 'liaison committee', so that he finds out what groups are planning what, and to keep everyone informed, and that he should do as much coordination and 'partnership' as possible with all such potential groups, to avoid duplication, overlap, clashes etc.

LC ideally would prefer to see one single application for Hibs related project, not multiple. Lewis agrees that the 'last thing he wants do' is to see LC 'swamped' by Hibs linked applications.

Lewis was advised to contact the CEC Culture and Communities Committee (Convenor Cllr Val Walker (Cllr.Val.Walker@edinburgh.gov.uk) to explore larger scale funding from the Council (which funded the 150th anniversary of Hearts, last year).

Susan also suggested that Hibs also alert all local Councillors *early* about any large events being planned as these have a massive effect on the local community and residents. See Appendix, below.

Agreed to discuss all of these issues with relevant colleagues, and to come back to talk online again . Provisional date set for 20th September, morning or lunchtime – Naomi Dixon to confirm availability and set up link.

Lewis was reminded that to be eligible to receive votes, applicants **must** attend the live Voting Day event in the Leith Community Centre, on Saturday 18th January 2025

Lewis asked if he had to send in a report for the current year before applying for next year. No – that is not due until end of March 2025. However, if he is in 'mid-project', it would be excellent if he were to send in a brief interim note of activities completed so far, with photos, or evaluative quotes etc. as relevant. *(NB if the project is already complete, he's welcome to send in the final report and full accounts etc. as early as he wishes, does not have to wait until March 2025.)*