

Leith Chooses meeting, 13 August 2025

Present: Abigail, Bruce (minutes), Don, Gail, Lisa, Sally, Susan

Apologies: Jack, Jason

Definite actions are green-highlighted.

1 Welcome and introductions

- Members introduced themselves, and those who weren't present were described, in terms of their community work.

2 Background to steering group

- Steering group (SG) meets Wednesdays (3 to 4pm) most weeks. Monthly evening meetings enable folk who can't make 3pm to be involved. Visitors from applicant groups and others are welcome at all SG meetings, if there are no conflicts of interest.
- SG naturally has a strong commitment to community engagement.
- The May 2023 community conversation was described: it aimed to tell attendees from (potential) applicants what LC is, and gather suggestions for improving LC processes. The event also stemmed from concern about disengagement due to online-only voting during COVID. (The strong message from the event was that in-person voting/engagement was very welcome.)
 - Action: Bruce to circulate 'you said, we did' document that came from the event.

3 Points raised from the floor

- There is a clear lack of awareness of LC. SG could use the stories of how grants were used in publicity.
 - Post-project reports to CEC might be useful in this regard. Recent ones are [on Dropbox](#).
 - Action: SG to consider adding stories to social media strategy, being very careful to not unfairly publicise applicants in the current round.
 - Action: SG to consider using videos in further community events and training.
 - Action: SG to consider how to take up offers from Utilita of publicity.
 - Action: SG to woo trams for publicity, i.e. an in-kind 'grant'.
- It was noted that the recent community grants fund focus groups were very much in favour of PB.
 - Action: Susan to locate relevant 'members briefing' for CEC culture and communities meeting (18 August).

4 Launch of 2025 instance/press-release and comms

- It's today – it needs to be publicised
 - Action: Bruce/Sally to publicise on LC website – full version of email sent by Naomi today
 - Action: Sally to publicise via 'I love Leith': short call to action, containing link to website post
 - Action: Jack/Bruce to publicise via LC social media: short call to action, containing link to website post
 - Action – Naomi and Tremaine to publicise via their mailing list.
 - Action: the above to regularly republicise.
 - Action: Susan to jazz up draft press release.

5 Social media policy

- Action: Bruce to put social media policy on LC website.

6 Timescales

- Priorities are publicity and supporting applicants.
 - The next phase will be organising voting.
 - Action – Gail to engage with Volunteer Edinburgh about potential volunteers at voting day.

7 Format of support sessions

- Previous support events appear to have worked well for the applicants who attended, while non-attendees generally didn't do so well.
- Previous post-award evaluation sessions haven't been well attended. However, SG has always implemented suggestions from these. There is also useful feedback gathered at voting days – most of this has been complimentary.
- SG could set up sessions where those who have completed application forms well, got support/votes, otherwise been successful to coach others.
- These meeting could be jazzed up so they attract applicants.
- Decisions
 - Open Wednesday 3pm meetings to applicants
 - Also open evening meetings (once per month)
 - Action: Naomi/Tremaine to email their list inviting applicants to support sessions – once the schedule is finalised.
 - Be very ready to help applicants with the new online application form.

8 Future open SG meetings

- Agreed to be last Wednesday of each month, i.e. next is 24th September

9 AOB

- CEC officers have offered to attend LC meetings on 3rd or 10th September. We chose **3rd September**.
- Action: Bruce to add Lisa to mailing list for meeting notes etc.
- Action: Sally to email those who couldn't attend today, and might be interested, reminding them of meetings (especially open/evening meetings), and ask them if they wish to continue to be on this circulation list.