

Leith Chooses meeting, 17 September 2025

Present: Bruce, Don, Lisa, Jack, Jason (online), Rachel; Zabihullah, Hadi (both from Afghan Community Edinburgh); Archie (Compass Therapy Centre)

Apologies: Sally, Susan

Definite actions are green-highlighted.

- 1 If any applicants are attending, seeking support with their application, make arrangements for that, as required (private 1:1 or 1:2 (usually best), or group discussion?)**
 - Afghan Community Edinburgh (Zabihullah, Hadi): lots of talk about how to shape projects, how to apply, need to be within LC area, how to network with other community organisations etc.
 - Compass Therapy Centre (Archie): CTC supports people with neurological conditions. Basic ideas is courses to help people network, learn new things, to benefit mental well-being. We talked about costs (e.g. can be more than £5k if someone else funds the difference, need to be a new project (which they seem to want to do) and much else.
 - Abby has been meeting with Latin American Community. They may need some hand-holding for their application.
- 2 Minutes of last 'open' meeting, last normal meeting and review Action list**
 - Bruce to do more advertising on website etc.
 - Jack to make A3 version of poster, then supply this to Rachel.
 - We reviewed Jack's draft poster.
 - Bruce to try to create more impactful small version of LC map.
- 3 Any new agenda items from the floor?**
 - none
- 4 Dates list**
 - 4.1 Pop-up session at Utilita on 4th October 10-4pm**
 - Don, Rachel 10 to 12
 - Bruce, Lisa, Jack 12 to 4
 - 4.2 Next open meeting on 15th October, then 19th November**
 - Dates noted
 - 4.3 LC Applications close 22nd October**
 - Date noted
 - 4.4 Voting Day 24th January 2026, Online Voting 27 January – 10th February**
 - Dates noted
 - 4.5 Awards Night 19 February 2026 (ask Rob about Kinnaird Hall)**
 - Carried over for Sally to action
- 5 Any news re applications so far, requests for support? Any more we can do, to 'solicit' and support applications?**
 - One application received so far.
 - See item 1 for requests for support. Both ACE and CTC were encouraged to take advantage of the support we can offer, including getting applications ~a week before the deadline, in case they need advice to get it over the line.
- 6 Planning for Utilita Saturday pop-up (4th October)**
 - In progress – see item 4.1 above
- 7 AOB**
 - 7.1 Update re Trams? (Susan)**
 - Susan will meet with trams in ~a fortnight.
 - 7.2 Presence at voting day**
 - Ideas for discussion for the next iteration (2026-27)
Being present for the full voting day may be a large investment of organisations' time/budget. SO:
 - Do they need to be there all through the day?
 - Could they set up their stall as an exhibit that doesn't need staff? (Think of the investment in time compared to the %age of votes placed on voting day [15% in total in 2024-25].)