

Leith Chooses meeting, 24 September 2025

Present: Abby (online), Bruce, Don, Jack, Jason (online), Rachel (online), Sally, Susan

Apologies: none

Definite actions are green-highlighted.

1 Applicant news

- See last week's minutes about two potential applicants: Afghan Community Edinburgh, Compass Therapy Centre
- Abby has been meeting with Latin American Community Association Edinburgh, helping them understand how to apply. (They may wish to undertake a cultural project, or something to support recent immigrants.)

1.1 Related discussion points

- Whether another 'festival on the links' would be welcome.
- A potential future criterion might be that projects should help bring people together.
- Desirable outputs (or projects and the in-person voting day) should be exchanging contact details etc, leading to ongoing 'bringing people/organisations together' outcomes.
- But what should the limits on LC facilitating co-ordination between groups be? Presumably, because partnerships are eligible, if they ask for help (e.g. 'who can we partner with?') we can make suggestions. However, we should not volunteer such help or insist on partnerships.
 - Action: Bruce to set up a 'to consider for 2026-27 instance' document.
 - This is to include the ideas about voting day from last week's meeting.

2 Posters and other comms

2.1 Posters

- Action: Jack to 'future-proof' the poster (so it advertises both the call for applications and the voting period), then send this to Bruce
- Action: Bruce to print 10 A3 copies

2.2 Trams

- Susan will meet with Trams next week
 - Action: Susan and Jack to take the new poster and the PowerPoint showing the crowd of people at the voting day, i.e. it's good for the trams' footfall.

2.3 Encouraging more applications

- Action: Jack to check whether normal venue is available 4pm onwards on 1 October.
- Assuming it is available, action: social media folk to post that support is available 4pm (after our normal meeting) and on 15 October during the evening meeting at the Kirkgate. (If library isn't available at 4pm on 1 October, just the Kirkgate meeting)
- Action: Naomi and Tremaine to do an email blast with the same information.

3 Utilita 'application promotion' day on 4th October 10-4pm

- Staffing
 - Abby, Don, Jason: 10am to 12 noon
 - Bruce, Jack, Lisa, Sally: 12 noon to 4pm
- Sally to find how to load things to Utilita's screens

4 Applications

4.1 Applications received so far

- Pilmeny Development Project (<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5t2963hkvkpyqy9wooso/LC0125-Redacted-Application.pdf?rlkey=wmvaxc7o1bl2bngci1517iul&dl=0>)
- Milan Senior Welfare Organisation (<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6np6es0z58cw7abliwry2/LC0225-Redacted-Application.pdf?rlkey=24a93kxdr3bxvbyk8r9r92eqw&dl=0>)
- Decision: hold considering these until we have a worthwhile number, so they are all considered with the same mindset.

5 Voting day

- Jason and Abby are working to recruit and organise Napier students as volunteers.
 - Action: Jason and Abby to report on this when appropriate.

6 Awards Night 19 February 2026

- Action: Sally to ask Rob about Kinnaid Hall

7 AOB

- Due to increases in racist sentiment etc in Leith (and elsewhere!), please tell Susan of any organisations wanting to do anti-racism work/actions. **NB this is not a LeithChooses activity.**

8 Next week's meeting

- The draft agenda for next week was agreed:
 1. Any additions to Agenda?
 2. Update on Applications (CEC)
 3. Things to decide and order / buy early
 - a. What happened about the lost banner? Was it ever found? Need to order a new one?
 - b. We need two new pull-up banners (one is broken and one is old and not showing up to date graphics). Who will design? Who will order and pay?
 - c. Do we need to start organising to get the Smoothie bike early? (CEC)
 - d. Face-painting – Sally has recently sent request to the face-painters
 4. Discussion re Support Sessions
 5. Check on past reports – decision to warn then ban applicants if they have failed to report?
 6. Utilita Saturday 4th October – final planning session. (Another one booked for 17th January 2026)
 7. Comms - Update re press releases & social media. CEC comms? (CEC)
 8. AOB
 - a. Update re Trams (Susan)
 - b. Discussion of the idea about a 'NewsLetter'