

Leith Chooses meeting, 14 January 2026

Present: Abigail, Donna, Jack, Naomi, Sally

Online: Bruce

Apologies: Don, Jason, Rachel, Susan, Tremaine

Definite actions are green-highlighted (sorry there are two shades of green – out of my control – no significance!)

1 Cards for stickering

Purple = done & handed over to Naomi / Tremaine

- Jack: Volunteer Edinburgh, U-evolve
- Rachel: Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Who cares? Scotland
- Lisa: The Junction, THELMA – in progress, unclear if handed over yet? tbc
- Donna: Pilmeny Development Project, Edinburgh Community Food, Dr Bells Family Centre
- Abby: Teens+, Creative Arts Therapy Space, Citadel Arts
- Sally: Tiny Changes, Turn the Tables
- Don: Tidy Scot, Men of Leith Mens' Shed
- Susan: Broughton Parent Council, ARTs Afternoon, Forget me Notes, Edinburgh Remakery
- Bruce: Leith Primary, YMCA, Leith Community Growers, Kin Collective
- Naomi and Tremaine: the other 6

2 Voting day

- "VOTED" handstamps (4) handed over to Naomi by Sally. NB. Turns out the imprint is not waterproof, so try to stamp people's wrists rather than hands if possible?
- Hot Water at Community Centre – they are having problems with their hot water so CEC will provide hand sanitiser at key sites, e.g. refreshments tables, smoothie bike station (might also use gloves to cut up bananas). (Sanitiser also at face painting?)
- Agreed that ARTS Afternoon (samba band) can do a 20 minute session downstairs in the Kirkgate at 12 to alert everyone to the opening of the Voting Day. Volunteers to be down there with them, handing out leaflets and persuading people to come up and vote.
- Signage – **ACTION: Jack and/or Naomi (check which) to make more laminated signs with just left or right arrows on them, also some blanks.**
- Lift – Graham (security) is pressing Kirkgate managers but it is likely that this will still not be working on the day. Not the Council's fault. Sign made by Naomi to hang on lift, directing people to ramp.
- **Action (Sally) - Volunteer(s) will be allocated to stand by lift, to advise, help, offer to lift push chair up the stairs, etc.**
Action: Donna to explore borrowing wheelchair from Lidl
- Capacity of Community Centre – agreed that an accurate 'count' is unrealistic. Volunteers (CEC staff) to keep an eye on the crowding in corridor and main room and possibly we put a hold on more people entering the building if we do get overcrowding. **Action: Sally to contact Rob to ask what the max capacity of Sports Hall and Centre is.**
- Both LC pull-up stands are broken. Donna offered redundant Utilita pullup(s). Agreed that we can Sellotape LC fliers all over its surface (and possibly other useful things like 'Toilets this way (arrow)' to 'disguise' it.
- We will position this standing at an angle at the door of the Sports Hall, as a barrier to prevent people going straight in there from front door without passing by Kinnaird Hall sign-in desk. A volunteer can also stand there to direct people.
- *For Next Year – investigate whether Utilita pull-ups could be 'reskinned', and/or buy new pull-ups*
- Tee Shirts **Action – all Steering Group members to bring their own if they have them at home, and Naomi will bring the pile for volunteer use.**
- Ballot Boxes – Naomi will bring 3 (1 'spare') plus cable ties
- **Walkie Talkies – Naomi to bring**
- **Action: Don to provide 'best stall' prize. Don to submit expense form – or not, as he chooses.**
- Fire Evacuation Plan:
 - Volunteers to exit and 'shepherd' members of public with them, to rally at tree in Kirkgate
 - Steering Group members to stay and check each room is empty before exiting
- **Action: Naomi will print another page of labels for each Boost Vote table**

2.1 Steering Group Members' 'main' Jobs for Voting Day (provisional)

Naomi & Tremaine (with Michael Edwards) - roving, & looking after Applicants. (NB Tremaine is Fire Officer)

Susan – roving and Press, visitors

Don – roving, making sure Lift is attended, looking after Childrens Vote

Jack and Lisa – Ballot Box 1

Bruce and Jason - Ballot Box 2, mentoring Napier student(s)

Abigail, Sally, (+ Laurie Pierce) - Ballot Box reserves

Rachel – Evaluation Board (reserves - Abigail & Napier students, Don)
 Donna – Checking Discards Box, and replenishing voting cards for stalls, general trouble-shooting
 Lisa (2) – team leader on rounding up Greens to go outside and flier
 Sally – Sign In station extra / reserve

For further discussion at next Wednesday meeting (21st)

2.2 Setting up for Voting Day on Friday 23 January

Food, and tables and chairs will be delivered earlier in the day and will be in the café area which is in use until 6pm. (The Main Hall is also in use). So -

LC Steering Group to come at 6pm (no earlier) to community centre to help set up tables, install signage etc.

2.3 Volunteers (excluding Steering Group Members)

- Via CEC - 6
- Via Donna - 2 from Utilita (new)
- Via Jason -4 from LHNCC (including Douglas), 4 Napier students (new)
- Via Sally & existing list of contacts / previous volunteers - 8 (experienced)
- Via Susan – Greens – 4, plus Kayleigh will do media desk) (some/mostly experienced) Maybe 2 more?

Volunteer briefing events

1. Online (Team)s briefing held on 14th recorded) - 9 volunteers attended plus Sally and Donna leading.
2. The recording to be hosted on the LC website, along with the written briefing
3. **Action: Naomi to forward the recording, Sally to post on website & 'advertise' via socials)**
4. Then final in-person briefing at community centre on Wednesday 21st (5pm – 7pm open drop in invitation)

3.0 AOB

- 3.1 **Action: Susan to liaise with Trams re copy for their onboard 'advert'**
- 3.2 Awards Night 19th February Kinnaird Hall, should we invite Speaker? **Action: Naomi to approach Paul Lawrence**
- 3.3 Reminder re Volunteer Celebration at City Chambers, 24 March, all Steering Group invited

4.0 NEXT Meeting(s)

21 January	4pm at Community Centre	Invite volunteers in from 5pm – 6pm for a face to face drop in volunteer briefing.
Friday 23	Set up (tables, chairs, signs) at Community Centre. All hands on deck please – esp. fit people for table moving...	6pm
Saturday 24	Voting Day	Leith Community Centre 9 am - all day
Wednesday 28	3-5pm McD Rd. Library	Vote counting, Bring snacks and drinks!