

LEITH HARBOUR & NEWHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
February 6, 2008

Present: S. Burns, E. Carnegie, M. Chisholm, L. Duckworth, C. Forsyth, P. James, J. Langton, M. Macgregor, C. O'Farrell, J. Pennycook, G. Rosie, N. Sherry, K. Slater.

Apologies: M. Byrne, G. Chapman, R. Munn, G. Munro, J. MacKenzie, J. Pennycook.

1. **Chairman's remarks:** Nicky welcomed everyone to the meeting in Graham's absence and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He welcomed Camilla Forsyth who was attending the meeting for the first time. A photographer from the council attended to photograph the group for use in the development of community council posters.
2. **Secretary's report:** Elaine circulated latest correspondence to the group.
3. **Treasurer's report:** Sandie has kindly offered to take over the role of treasurer from Graham. This will be a gradual process over the next few months. The community council report currently holds £772 and the newsletter account holds £2,159. Graham has applied for £500 from neighbourhood partnership monies for the production of the newsletter. £5,000 will follow from Edinburgh City Council for the newsletter account.
4. **Community Police report:** John reported that the crime rate has dropped within Newhaven area by 11% and Leith Harbour area by 5%. There have been three serious assaults in the last month. Two men have been arrested for numerous car thefts, and there has been a 500% solvency rate over the last two months for house break-ins. The police are working with Leith Walk shops to tackle vandalism. There have been 18 youth calls from the Newhaven area and 25 youth calls from Leith Harbour area. There are still concerns about under-age-drinking. A test purchasing scheme will be set up where young people will be allowed to test shops regarding their willingness to sell alcohol to those under age. Walls vandalised around Auchinleck Court will be repaired. John is hoping to open up one of the schools in the evening for the young people to play in. Concerns were raised from members regarding inappropriate speed of cars on Madeira Street and Links Place. It was also pointed out that cars are driving through the pedestrian lights at Leith library, and parking on the pavements of Junction Place is causing the breakage of paving stones. Marjory Thomas requested that we discuss the possibility of double yellow lines being placed on Hawthornvale. John reiterated that parking on the pavement has been causing problems for wheelchairs and prams. Owing to the need for resident parking Paul suggested putting yellow lines from Jessfield upwards. There is also a problem of lorries being parked outside the café on Newhaven Road – they are blocking cars from coming out of Hawthornvale. John will discuss this issue with Marjory Thomas.

5. **Planning and Licensing:** John reported that the pool hall in Great Junction Street is to be converted to a recording studio. Current applications and decisions include renovation and development of the Citadel Youth Centre, refusal of proposed Aldi Store on Dock Street and the repair and maintenance of the Vintners Building at The Vaults in Giles Street.
6. **Meetings attended:** Nicky attended the 'Housing and the Built Environment' group of the neighbourhood partnership. The next meeting is February 21. More community participants are required to help build on the work of this group. Nicky said that he has already seen benefits to the community from the work of this group. The group discussed the imminent review of Children and Families Services that may lead to cutbacks within community work. Members decided to write a joint letter to the council regarding their concerns. This will be signed by everyone at the next meeting.
7. **Newsletter:** Jenny continues to look for sponsorship from businesses for the newsletter. Jenny sent a message to the group inviting suggestions for the content of the next newsletter. These ought to be sent to her within six weeks. Members discussed ideas for more youth input to the newsletter. Paul and Melissa will have material on a regular basis from young people. The group welcomed a designated area within the newsletter for material from young people.
8. **Website:** Alison is leaving the area. The website will require someone to maintain it in the future. Kevin Slater volunteered to carry out this work. We would like to thank Alison for her excellent work on the development and maintenance of the website.
9. **AOCB:** Malcolm asked the group if they were supportive of the moves to progress the plans of the Leith Theatre Trust. Everyone was supportive of their current aims and plans. Concern was also raised about the uncertain future of Newhaven museum. Paul will draft a letter of support from the group to be sent to the council.
10. **Date of next meeting:** March 5, 2008 at 7.30pm in the Persevere Room in Leith Community Education Centre.