

LIBERTON MATTERS

Liberton &
District
Community
Council

The Liberton & District
Community Council
Newsletter

**SPRING 2019,
ISSUE 7**

Welcome

by Bill Krol, Chair of LDCC

It is time again for the Spring edition of the Liberton & District Community Council (LDCC) Newsletter, which will be delivered to houses in the Mortonhall and Alnwickhill area and distribution points such as Liberton Kirk, leisure centres, and libraries.

The Community Council is a non-political organisation and has places for 18 members, 12 of whom are elected and 6 who are representatives of local groups, for example Gracemount Community Project and the Liberton Association. The **purpose** of LDCC is to 'express to the local authority the views of the community'. This requires community councils to 'engage widely with their local communities' and 'take action in the interests of the community.' LDCC is **consulted** on local planning applications and takes an interest in government development plans for South East Scotland and Edinburgh as they affect our local community.

This issue includes items on planning, Gracemount Walled Garden, travel and roads – including concerns about speeding, lack of pedestrian crossings and bus stop provision. Also included are descriptions of the ongoing success of local friends groups - there has been fantastic activity at St. Katherine's Park and Seven Acre Park. Litter is a very modern problem and there are details of forthcoming Spring Clean up events.

This year our meetings have been held at approximately two month intervals on the last Monday of the month. There will be an extra meeting on Monday 29th April at 7 pm at Liberton Kirk Halls. The **meeting on Monday 27th May will combine the AGM with a normal meeting.**

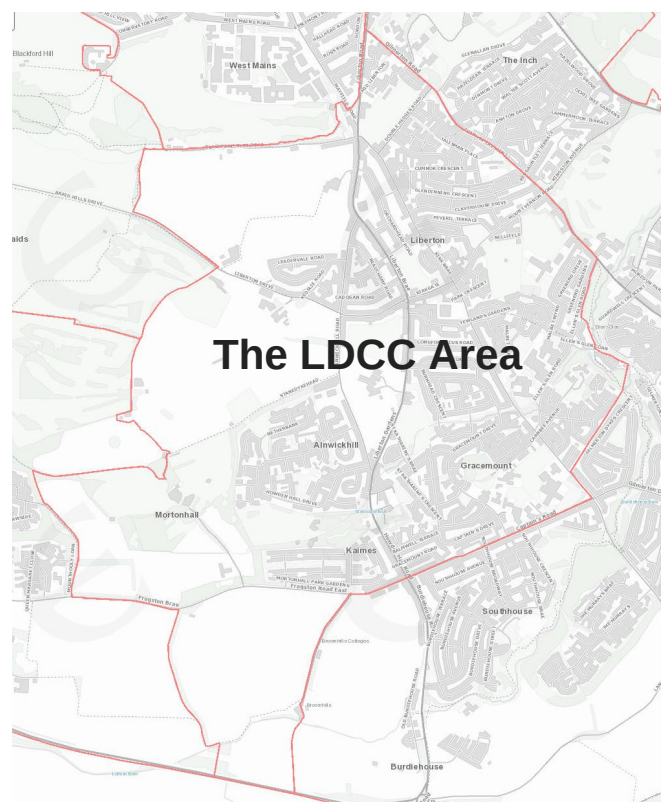
Residents can also contact the LDCC via **email**: mail@libertondistrict.org.uk or by **post** at Liberton Kirk Halls.

Our **website** is a great source of information: www.libertondistrict.org.uk.

You can join our **mailing list** here: <http://eepurl.com/cS1AHT>



@LibertonDCC



Update from the Community Council

by Bill Krol, Chair of LDCC

After inquiries from many local residents, we have been in contact with the City of Edinburgh Council about the **reinstatement of the bus stop** on Liberton Road at Goods Corner. Unfortunately the bus operators are not willing to re-instate this bus stop as they feel that having too many stops close together will limit the efficiency of the bus service on this route. Reinstatement of this bus stop is therefore unlikely at this time.

Speeding on Liberton Drive by vehicles coming from Braid Hills Drive has concerned local residents who have asked us to support their request for involvement in a **Community Speedwatch Programme**. Comment from Police Scotland, to Daniel Johnson MSP, has explained that they are not in a position to offer this scheme due to insurance issues which are currently being worked on.

We are also working closely with the City of Edinburgh Council to improve the Liberton Brae/Mayfield Road junction. We are pleased to report that **cycle forward lights** have been installed to aid cycling through this junction. We continue to campaign for a pedestrian crossing on Kirkbrae and will keep you posted.

Big Spring Clean

by Amy Richards, Vice-Chair of LDCC

Lots of local residents are taking to the streets and local parks to **tackle litter this springtime**. Spring clean success has already happened in St Katharine's Park and Burdiehouse Burn. We would love you to **get involved** as well!

The LDCC are organizing a litter pick starting from Gracemount Mansion House on **Saturday 4th May from 9 am - 11 am**. There will be some snacks and refreshments from 10:30 am onward. The City of Edinburgh Council will provide the litter picks and bin bags so please just make sure you wear appropriate clothing and come along to help improve the appearance of the local area.



Gracemount Mansion House Update

by Norrie MacPhail, Transition Edinburgh South

Gracemount Mansion House was **closed in April 2018** due to water ingress, leaving all 5 organisations formerly operating out of the mansion homeless. With estimated repair costs of £2M the council is not undertaking repairs (understandably).

Here at Transition Edinburgh South this has substantially restricted our capacity to operate, giving us an unclear future. Lack of commitment from the City of Edinburgh Council has prevented us installing a steel portacabin within the grounds, to operate from in the meantime. However, we have successfully submitted an **outline business plan for a Capital Asset Transfer** of the walled garden and stables. Hopefully this will help matters going forward. Please watch this space!



Friends of Seven Acre Park

by Ronnie Shaw, local interest group representative

The Friends of Seven Acre Park have been active over the past few months in helping to maintain and enhance the park. The park was recently presented with a **Green Flag award** at a reception hosted by the Deputy Lord Provost at the City Chambers. The Woodland Nature Trail has been extended eastwards towards Alnwickhill Road, and a rhododendron bed has been created between Alnwickhill Drive and Netherbank. **Future activities** will include the installation of animal sculptures and signs along the new section of the nature trail, fence painting, and planting along the edges of woodland.



Discussions with the Mactaggart & Mickel Group

by Bill Krol, Chair of LDCC



At the LDCC meeting on 25th March, the Mactaggart & Mickel group spoke to the community council about very early stages of development potential on land immediately to the west of Liberton in the Braid Hills greenbelt. There was large interest in this matter from the public with lively questioning. Strong opposition to any development on these sites was expressed.

It should be stressed that, at this moment, **there are currently no plans or proposals** for any of the proposed development sites. Needless to say the Community Council would strongly support the local community's opposition to any erosion of this very important area of greenbelt land which gives south Edinburgh a vital mixed urban and rural feel.

Our website has lots of information relating to the City of Edinburgh Council planning process. A useful **guide to the planning process** with links is currently being updated for the website.

New Community Council Members Needed

The Community Council sits for three years and we are coming to the end of our present cycle with elections scheduled for this autumn. Local residents are strongly encouraged to stand for election and instructions for the election process will be issued by the City of Edinburgh Council over the next few months.