

LIBERTON MATTERS

A Liberton & District Community Council Newsletter

Issue 11 Summer 2022



WELCOME to the Summer 2022 Newsletter of the Liberton & District Community Council (LDCC). Our area comprises Liberton and the wider district which you can see on the map inside.

In December 2021 you may have seen our Newsletter on the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) *City Plan 2030* describing housing and land development policies for the next ten years. However, this is our first general newsletter since 2019. It highlights some of the issues which are discussed at Community Council meetings, including planning matters, and concerns of local residents which LDCC follows up with the CEC councillors and officers.

There's also some information about current community councillors and an invitation for you to come to our meetings, to raise issues, or to become involved. There will be elections for a new Community Council in the autumn of 2023. Currently there are 12 elected places for residents and six places for representatives of local interest groups eg Friends of Parks groups and residents associations. Our CEC Councillors, MSPs and MP are also eligible to attend with our CEC councillors regularly attending.

Illustration from James Grant. *Cassell's old and new Edinburgh*, vol. III, 1880.

GOOD NEWS

Friends of **Seven Acre Park** have achieved Green Flag status for their work on one of the area's fine open spaces.

LDCC supported the campaign to reinstate and refurbish **Glenvarloch Play Park**, and look forward to the work on the revived park being completed by the summer.

PLANNING MATTERS

Our Planning Convenor writes:

Planning in our area

Community Councils have a statutory right to be consulted on applications for planning. The CEC produces a weekly list of applications & decisions at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning, which the our Planning Convenor assesses for local interest and potential comment

Current developments

LDCC submitted detailed comments on the housing development at Broomhills. We also objected, unsuccessfully to the construction of student flats at the foot of Mayfield Road.

Approved developments

An application for the demolition of Northfield House Hotel and the construction of student flats has been approved on appeal. LDCC objected to this development.

The application for the change of use from the former Bank of Scotland premises on Liberton Gardens to a retail pharmacy has been approved.

Future developments

Details for the replacement of the existing Liberton High School have recently been advertised and two drop in sessions have been held at the school. LDCC is supportive of the outline proposals and will review and comment upon the formal application. Proposals for changes to the Burdiehouse area including the Kaimes junction to facilitate active travel arrangements have been published.

Adjacent districts

We are also following applications in other areas which may have impact on the LDCC area, including housing at Ferniehill & Gilmerton Station Road, and Cameron Toll cinema, hotel & housing

The Planning environment

These include city-wide plans and National Planning Frameworks. Last year the CEC produced *City Plan 2030* setting out strategy and policies for the city. LDCC's last newsletter focussed on the Plan, and residents responses were included in our comments to Council. More recently, LDCC has submitted comments on the Government's National Planning Framework.

Some current concerns

Developers have for many years put forward speculative proposals for several further housing developments in the area. *City Plan 2030* does not include any sites in the area for housing other than the Liberton Hospital site and waste ground behind Howdenhall Police Station. LDCC has already objected to a pre-planning application for further housing at Broomhills, and keeps a watchful eye on other sites in the area.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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.



WHO WE ARE

Your current Community Councillors are Bill Krol (Chair), Rachel Bielby, Rosie Carmichael, David Cavanagh, Tom Fitzgerald, Graeme Forbes (Secretary/Treasurer), Anna Gioveni, Abu Meron, Neil Purves, Peter Schwarz and Ronnie Shaw (Planning Convenor). If you're interested in what we do or wish to raise something of concern to the community, then why not come along to one of our meetings, or contact us?

Liberton & District Community Council (LDCC)

We meet monthly (except July & December). Check out our website at www.libertondistrict.org.uk for details of meetings, information on planning applications and much more. You can also email us at mail@libertondistrict.org.uk. And we're on twitter at [@LibertonDCC](https://twitter.com/LibertonMatters).

CURRENT CONCERNS

SPEEDING: Over the years many have noticed the main roads through our area becoming much busier partly due to increase in housing in south Edinburgh. We've received many concerns about speeding, particularly on Kirk Brae and Liberton Drive. Our CEC councillors have supported our requests to resolve these traffic issues. Requests have been referred to the Council's Roads Department and we've been informed that a consultation is being planned on extending the 20mph network across the city and LDCC will be submitting suggestions.

CROSSINGS: Of the seven busy junctions in the LDCC area, the junction of Mayfield Road, Liberton Brae and Kirk Brae remains the only one without pedestrian crossings on each arm. The crossings on the Liberton Brae and Liberton Road arms were installed following requests made almost 20 years ago. Whilst a recent assessment found that the number of pedestrians did not reach the levels necessary to justify the installation of crossings, LDCC feels that numbers may be affected by pedestrians avoiding these crossings, and will certainly increase once the student flats are completed on Mayfield Road. LDCC will continue to lobby for crossings to be considered on these busy roads.

CYCLING: the complex junction at the foot of Liberton Brae is a difficult one to negotiate, particularly the southbound carriageway from Mayfield Road. LDCC is lobbying for improvements to signage and road markings, and parking restrictions at the foot of Liberton Brae.

GRACEMOUNT MANSION & WALLED GARDEN: Friends of the Mansion group have recently created a Mansion Development Trust to work towards a Community Asset Transfer of Gracemount House, the surrounding buildings and green space. In the meantime an adapted container is being installed to provide meeting facilities for the community garden. Several Friday lunchtime events have been held recently and have included a 'Burns' Supper', haggis provided by Scran Academy which has provided food at all the events. Volunteers for ongoing garden activity are welcome - find out more from Transition Edinburgh South - see the TES website and Friends of the Mansion Facebook page.

LIBERTON PARK: The dilapidated state of the containers in the park has attracted vermin and remains a cause of concern to park users and residents. LDCC continues to work with local councillors and the South Edinburgh Community Football Club to improve the facilities.