

# Longstone Community Council

## Secretary's report for 2021–22

---

As a result of the Covid–19 pandemic, LCC held its first Zoom meeting on 12 Oct 2020 and continued up to the May meeting this year. So all the meetings held in the financial year 21–22 have been online, with good attendance from members and the public. Unfortunately it has meant that Lily Campbell and Jean Marr have not been able to participate. Lily was able to participate somewhat via a telephone link arranged via John Allan but this is far from satisfactory. LCC benefitted from being able to use Zoom Pro, courtesy of DL, which gave unlimited time.

In October 2021, we co-opted Maria McDonald, the former Treasurer of Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead CC, who had moved into our area; she later resigned (March 2022). In May 2022, we co-opted Will Sturgeon. The LCC membership remains at 9 (the minimum is 7).

Because the police do not use Zoom, they were not represented at any meeting, but we did receive the occasional report, although not in the detail we wanted. We have asked police to monitor the speed of traffic on Lanark Road and Inglis Green Road.

CEC was often represented by Cllr Dixon while Cllr Graczyk sent a non-participating representative to take notes until she lost her seat. Latterly, even before they were elected, Cllrs MacKenzie, Cowdy and Heap attended our meetings.

The 2021 AGM (the 42nd) was held on 14 June 2021 at which the following were reappointed: DL as Chair; JA as Vice-chair and SC as Secretary/Treasurer. It was followed by a normal monthly meeting and a further 7 meetings were held including a special meeting on 2 August 2021 called by 20 residents under clause 11(g) of the Constitution. The residents represented South–West Energy is Motion (SWEM), presided over by Prof Derryck Reid. The issue was the 'spaces for people' scheme deployed on Lanark Road by CEC, which included dedicated cycle lanes to which SWEM objected. They wanted the deployment abolished. After discussion, which produced no resolution, LCC held a private meeting.

During the year several planning issues took our attention: viz. the Kingsknowe Roadhouse, the redevelopment of the Westside Motors site as student flats, the conversion of Slateford House and the proposal by J Smart & Co to redevelop the former Booker site. A planning application for the latter is being considered so that LCC can submit its response. There is a proposal to develop a vacant site in Inglis Green Gait as student accommodation, to which we did not submit a response.

During the year, MC reported on ReDrawing Edinburgh and JA on meetings of the Canal Community Action Group.

Several environmental issues took our attention during the year, viz: the 'spaces for people' schemes on Lanark Rd, Inglis Green Road–Longstone Rd and Dovecot Grove; flooding of the subway under the canal; lighting and drainage in Hailes Quarry Park; a community garden; the outdoor classroom at the school; the closure of bridges in Colinton Dell; and graffiti.

The closure of the The Burnside and hence access to the path to Stenhouse has been an ongoing nuisance and inconvenience. After the back walls of the Jaflong building fell into the Murrayburn, the subsequent scaffolding meant that the bridge over the Murrayburn was closed (some people broke through the barrier). Later, a fire in the building caused it to be demolished, with the bridge still closed because it was deemed unsafe. CEC declined to make repairs, alleging that the bridge is owned by the Earl of Morton, whom we attempted to trace.

In vain we attempted to trace the owner of the Tunnel Path leading down to the subway. We pressed Parks Dept to deal with the flooding in the subway, which eventually led to them clearing a drain at the north end. However they would do nothing to deal with the leaking spring, the source of the flooding. Water continues to drain through the subway making it uninviting.

Network Rail made extensive improvements to banking beside the track beside Redhall Park and as a quid pro quo were required to rebuild the steps between Stoneypath and Hawmuirside. Scottish Canals later undertook strengthening of the canal bank by the footbridge.

As usual we held a Remembrance Ceremony at the war memorial on 14 Nov 2021.

Litter picking has been organised both in Hailes Quarry Park and Redhall Park.

During the year, SC moved our registered domain (longstonecc.or.uk) from names.co to lonos to save expense.

Steuart Campbell  
30may22