

## Leith Primary Parent Council meeting - Library

6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 18:15

### **Apologies**

Judith Weir, Kate McDonald, Anneli Kukka, Sarah Morrison, Eily Scott, Kirsty Welsh, Veronica Melichar, Justine Douglas, Bekah Mcvitie, Gayle Blair, Yula Hildeman

### **Attendees**

Christine Treche, Lauren Sweeny, Claire Corquhoun, Amy O'Reilly, Sarah Fraser, Nicola Lamberton, Emma Dreschler, Nikki Dunne, Suzanne McHattie, Fiona Craig, Laura McConnell, John McKenzie.

### **Treasurer report**

Balance - £9849.

Christmas fair and raffle raised £3386

Christmas cards raised £150

Still to pay - Benmore funding, £1200 and remaining Library donation

Remaining - £8287

### **Leith Chooses**

This year we are trying to raise funding for holiday hampers. Voting this year can only be done on the day in person - 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Community centre in the Kirkgate.

Ideas to raise awareness. Kate to draft a flyer telling parents about it and encourage them to drop in and vote on the day.

Miss Craig to cover in assembly to raise awareness amongst the kids

On the day we will have a demo hamper, banner stands and sweets etc to try and get people engaged in the idea.

Request for volunteers to help out on the day. Kate is available. Suzanne and Claire also willing to help out. Will request on volunteers FB page.

### **Playground update – Playground Improvement Group (PIG)**

Happy Chinese New Year – The Year of the PIG – and as we are the Playground Improvement Group (The PIGs) – it is going to be an auspicious year for us! We are going to improve this playground!

The PIGs had a really good handover from those involved prior to the old gym hall being demolished and a really positive planning meeting for moving forward.

Laura McConnell is leading on consulting with the pupils as she has done this at various previous schools. This can then both feed into our ideas and to future funding applications.

### Removal of TU

Just this morning, following various emails from myself, Sarah and Fiona, to all sorts of people and departments in the council, emails outlining our position, Fiona & I met with Robbie Crockatt, School Estate Planning Manager and his colleague Michaela Lyons. They do

recognise that the council move at a glacial speed but assure us that they have been working on the removal of the TU & that plans are now coming together to have it removed by the end of the Easter holidays, possible over a weekend prior to that. The road has to be closed for crane access and they have to have Heras safety fencing etc ready and in place to make the area safe in the short term. It's the most positive information to date and we will keep asking for regular updates on this to try and ensure the date doesn't slip back.

Some of you may be aware that an outdoor classroom was designed to go into the area where the TU currently is. This was passed by planning dept as permitted development some-time ago but, whenever and whoever we asked, the council remained unclear about the funding for this. We have kept pushing for funds for this to be made available and finally got some good news today. Budget is available for the playground. There was the option to spend it all on the outdoor classroom already designed OR to look at a larger overall design for the entire playground utilising the skills of a landscape architect with playground experience that the council is already working with on other schools.

Robbie Crockatt has said that Leith PS will become the priority for this designer. Due to the redesign this second option may take a little longer but that the council would be ambitious with an aimed completion date of August this year. We took an executive decision to go down this route as it will provide a better overall improved playground.

When working with the designer we will also explore surface markings such as empty ladders, targets & grids and a shelter, which may allow for the removal of the slop-y shed, thereby creating more freeplay space in the playground.

We have requested the removal of the football and ping – pong tables whilst there is a crane on site removing the TU. Robbie agreed to explore this & I will be emailing him with what was agreed.

### Mural

Sadly we were not successful in our funding bid. However, during the process of applying, it came to light that the wall is due to be re-pointed at some point. We will aim to include the wall in the overall design for the playground and see what the designer comes up with. If need be we can re-visit funding a mural in future or explore other avenues such as the talented graffiti artists that carried out the work at marine esplanade.

We have developed a list of tasks that we can get on with now and will look at the longer term overall design & what we might want to do to enhance it, if anything!

Once we know what's what, and if need be, we will announce a funding target and hopefully set up a playground-o-meter!

### Community Payback Team

As you will know, for less serious crimes, people often get a community service order. I have been speaking with the Community Payback Work Officer for our area and am meeting him soon to discuss potential tasks. The deal is that we supply materials and they supply tools

and labour. These are not people highly skilled in trades but they can take on some more basic jobs. The list I have to discuss with them includes:

Painting the railings and planters, giving the sloping shed a coat of wood preserver, exploring the removal of the ping pong & football tables, just as a back-up plan, and the painting of surface markings, again as a back-up.

If the Community Payback Officer feels our tasks are suitable for his team then we will explore tasks being undertaken during school holidays over the rest of the year & will coordinate with CLASP.

**Eily is also exploring the possibility of Edinburgh College students from the “trades” dept. carrying out some tasks.** From her past experience this needs to be during their term times so may or may not be suitable, but worth an exploration.

### Litter

I have heard that this is something the Eco Group will be looking at with Mrs Hind and Laura McConnell is going to coordinate with them. In the meantime I wanted to share these bins with you which I saw on a National Trust Property somewhere up north. They come with a voice recorder and speak when you've fed them some litter! If you remember the roly poly pig we used to have – it was meant to be used for compostable items but all sorts of litter ended up in it. Kids like feeding an animal bin!

It says things along the lines of Yum yum, thank you! Oooh, great, more rubbish for my tum! Etc etc. I've had one quote that brings one in at £525 or four at £1971. The playground group think they are great but recognise they are pricey. We also have some details on recycling bins. There are some other costs we want you to consider today so I'll ask your thoughts on these at the end!

### Loose Parts Play

Loose parts play is using items like planks, tyres and tarpaulins, crates etc to allow imaginative and co-operative play which in turn develops team work skills, negotiation skills, problem solving skills and a whole lot more! Research shows that playground accidents are less frequent and tend to be bumps rather than scrapes, when this type of equipment is available. We will apply to the Grounds for Learning organisation which will give us £500 credit to spend on their catalogue. £500 however will not go far. The teachers, especially John McKenzie, are really enthusiastic on outdoor learning and loose parts and John has been on courses about it. I have asked him to prepare a wish-list we can start to work towards. We will seek freebies and funding as this will be an on-going cost. The items will get weathered and worn. However, we do have some funds in the account and it seems that this is one area where a quick fix is possible. I'll give an indicative cost at the end. Please bear in mind that fixed items would also require on-going funds due to the new procedures. This would be £800 annually plus remedial costs. Sticking with loose parts, allows us to invest in them, as and when we have funds and does not commit it to over £800 per annum for potentially nothing more than a tick on a clipboard.

## Fundraising

Although we don't yet have a target we do know we will have to fundraise and we have a whole list of ideas. The 1<sup>st</sup> of those is going to be a family bingo afternoon. Bingo has been requested several times but we've never been sure of it will really work or not. Given that we may have to pay to book the gym hall and would need to source bingo equipment we've gone with a lower risk option: Leith Dockers Club have all the equipment and will loan it to us and give us free use of a function room.

We did try for a Friday evening but most were booked by paying customers. We have therefore gone with a date in May – I will confirm the date very soon. Tickets will be sold in advance. The entrance ticket will be swapped for a certain number of bingo sheets and there will also be a 50/50 raffle. The 50/50 will be £5 per ticket with the winner and the playground sharing the prize 50/50!

£5 x 200 tickets = £1000 to be split between winner & playground

The raffle tickets will also be sold in advance so that people unable to attend the bingo can still take part.

It is a computerised bingo machine but we will need someone to operate it. **Anyone with basic IT skills can get a wee lesson and practice with it. And it would be fun to have a caller –Suggestions? / volunteer? Even a couple of people to share the task?**

## Other things just to mention

**Fiona – could you please ask Chris to get rid of the weeds along the front wall and behind the fencing at the sides of the front entrance?** We'll be asking for the railings there to be included in the painting by the community payback guys.

**Nikki coordinating volunteers to get edible planting in the raised beds and half moon bed in the rear playground.**

**Laura also going to liaise with community police team – they are keen to work with the schools so we may be able to get them to undertake some tasks involving the kids, which in turn will help develop ownership of the playground with the kids**

The small metal shipping container from the old nursery will stay to become storage for loose parts

If we need custom shelving we can pay for wood and the prisoners in Saughton will build for free

**Laura is exploring Leith PS becoming a Terra-cycle recycling point.** This will encourage recycling and gives some cash back to the school

## Funds

Last year we spent £4000 on the Numicon resource to benefit the whole schools numeracy.

Today I ask you to spend the same amount on the following items:

- £2000 loose parts play equipment
- £525 on one talking bin
- £852 recycling station / bins
- £600 miscellaneous funds for paint, wood, plants, seeds, soil, small bingo prizes, etc
- £100 possible face painting stall at gala day
- **Total £4077**

### Talking bins



### Recycling station



### Recycling bins



Loose Parts



Agreed to refine the proposal to and look at alternative options for the bins – including sourcing wood to have the Wood workshop at Saughton Prison make durable wooden bins.

Miss Craig confirmed that the school are happy to support the PIG in a more holistic approach to the playground review rather than focus solely on the outdoor classroom.

### **Events**

Sadly Sarah is no longer able to help coordinate the events at school. **We'd very much like to run a Movie night soon and would love a volunteer to help organise. Will add a shout out on volunteer page on FB.**

### **Volunteers**

**Judith would like to handover coordination of the raffle to someone so that she can continue to focus on role as Secretary – Judith can supply a document outlining how she's run it which may be useful, a list of contacts and example letters etc Ideally we need a new co-ordinator in place by the end of the Easter holidays please. In my role as Chair we need to think of someone to take over in summer 2020.** Until this time I'm happy to continue with support from Judith as secretary.

**More shout outs for volunteers to take on central roles with in LPPC.** Suggested that we try again to attend parent consultations and alternative face-to-face events to try and raise awareness and get more volunteers.

Also be more transparent with minutes from the meetings so that people see the types of discussions. Issue minutes with next newsletter. Continue to post on website, post link to website on FB page.