

# THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9ER

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## Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Education Centre on Tuesday 7 June 2011, at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Maggie Bagan, David Baines, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Stewart Brechin, Cllr Steve Burgess, PC Steve Cairns, Colin Christison (Secretary), Mary Devine, Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, Tom King, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Maria McFarlane, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Molly Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Bob Smith, Pamela Spiers, Anne Stewart, Random Switch, Ola Uduku, and Joan Young.

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Dalziel, Jean Miller, George Pitcher, Robert Ross, Keith Smith, Colin Symes, Marjory Watson, and Maggie Wilson.

### 2. Guest Speaker: Anne Stewart, Places for People

Sandra introduced Anne, a support worker at the Terrars Croft (St Leonard's) residence for Places for People Scotland, Care and Support. She was accompanied by Stewart Brechin, Maria McFarlane, and Bob Smith, three of the service users

St Leonard's offers 24 hour care and support with sleepover staff to older people with dementia, mental health issues and or learning disabilities. There is also an outreach service available to people living in their own homes. The service is registered with the Care Commission as a Housing Support Service with Care at Home. Service users require support in areas such as personal care, household tasks including budgeting and shopping, social skills training, appropriate communication, and assistance with medication. The organisation is a subsidiary of Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association.

Anne described some of the many reasons why individuals need help, and mentioned the various methods of giving people support in the community. Some fund-raising is arranged, and a short film costing £9,000 has been made (with the assistance of Stewart Brechin), and it is hoped to show this at a future meeting. Bob Smith gave a summary of the service and support he has received.

After some questions and answers, members thanked Anne, and her companions, for their presentation.

### 3. Police Report

Sandra introduced PC Steve Cairns, who has taken over from PC Jeanette McCulloch. Steve is familiar with area. He said that there had been some housebreakings, especially on ground floors, and warned people not to leave windows open in warm weather when they are out, and to be particularly careful where there is scaffolding. There have been more thefts of pedal cycles.

He reminded people to report anything suspicious. After some discussion on subjects such as begging in the street and anti-social behaviour, members thanked Steve for his attendance.

#### **4. Minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2011**

Approved; proposed by Jan Fraser and seconded by May Linton.

#### **5. Matters arising**

Item 10.2: the loud music from the pawn shop at Nicolson Street had been turned down.

#### **6. Secretary's Report and Correspondence**

6.1 A team of "retail champions" has been appointed to draw up a series of action plans to revive nine of Edinburgh's "town centres". Three people have been appointed to look after three town centres each in the £25,000-a-year role. Each will be given a £45,000 budget to work with in order to bring about improvements to their areas. The town centre coordinator with responsibility for encouraging the regeneration of the Newington corridor is Graham Russell. He has been employed by the Economic Development Department to revitalise the area, strengthen the sense of community and improve relationships of those with a stake in the environs. It was agreed that the Southside Association should be consulted, and Colin would get in touch with Mr Russell.

6.2 The decision on the two planning applications for the former Odeon cinema will be made on 8 June.

6.3 An 'Old Peoples' Day of Action – 16 June: details given out.

6.4 The film called 'The Space Between' showing 11 June: details given out.

6.5 May Linton said that membership renewals amounted to 27. (Some members present renewed after the meeting).

#### **7. Treasurer's report**

Fiona reported that the balance at 31 May 2011 was £1041.98. Fiona continued by saying that she and Colin were now officially the joint signatories of the Lloyds TSB account (the John Ross Memorial Southside Association account), containing the sum of £1298.97 (plus interest). It was agreed to transfer these funds to the SA account at the Clydesdale Bank, and to close the TSB account.

#### **8. Environmental matters**

8.1 Caroline and others referred to the two large potholes in the roadway outside the dance studio in Howden Street. Cllr Burgess to enquire.

8.2 Mention was also made of the poor state of the pavement between Lidl's and Farmfoods. Cllr Burgess to enquire.

8.3 The white on the raised pavement at St Street would be repainted in the near future.

## 9. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor

- 9.1 There was some further discussion about the former *Odeon* cinema. Compulsory Purchase by the Council would only happen in extreme circumstances. Sandra mentioned the giant hogweed growing in the yard to the rear of the premises, and Cllr Burgess said he would investigate.
- 9.2 The Craggs Sports Centre – three bids had been received and a decision was expected in August.
- 9.3 The former Deaconess Hospital premises were on the market, and the former Dick Vet had been sold.

## 10. Any other business

Bob mentioned a forthcoming exhibition at the University Library about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Polish Medical School within the Edinburgh University Medical School.

## 11. Date of next meeting

**Tuesday 13 September.** As customary, **this is a week later than usual** so that the Centre can be returned to normal use after the Fringe. The speaker will be Tom King, who will give us the chance to look at some vintage comics and magazines from his collection, that will bring back memories and perhaps stimulate some conversation.

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