

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Education Centre on Tuesday 3 April 2012, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Colin Christison (Secretary), Danielle Coll, Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Sheila Gilmore MP, Tom King, Isobel Leckie, Carol McHugh, Kenny McLeod, Eugene Mullan, Ethel Murray, Molly Ross, Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, Ola Uduku, and David Wood.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Vera Anderson, Robert Beaton, Margaret Dalziel, May Linton, Jean Miller, George Pitcher, Cllr Cameron Rose, Robert Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Jo Scott, Keith Smith, Louise Smith, Marjory Watson, and PC Graham Watt.

2. Police Report

No officer present.

3. Presentation: Eugene Mullan, Crags Community Sports Centre

Sandra introduced Eugene, who is the convenor and one of the five trustees of the newly re-opened Crags Community Sports Centre. He gave a short history of the building which is now leased from the Council after Edinburgh Leisure closed it. The centre is run by Boroughmuir Blaze Basketball Club, 'basketballscotland', and Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association. Activities include basketball, break-dancing, yoga, and roller derby; they have one the largest game halls in Edinburgh, a dance/fitness studio, social reception area, car park, and an open-access outdoor kick pitch. He explained the programming and gave examples of current timetabling (150 adults, 50 young people, and 150 children had used the centre over the previous Friday-Sunday, with participants from all over Scotland). Basketball is the main activity and this is the first time a Scottish Basketball club has acquired facilities. The head coach of the Boroughmuir Blaze club, Simon Turner, is the centre's development manager, and there is liaison between the centre and such organisations such as the Canongate Youth Project, the Dumbiedykes Quality of Life group, and the Council's Community Learning and Development Dept. Local schools will still have their

curriculum requirements fulfilled. The centre has to be commercially viable and the enthusiasm shown so far is encouraging.

After a short question and answer session, Sandra and the members thanked Eugene for attending.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 March 2012

Agreed; proposed by Linda Femister, and seconded by Maggie Bagan.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Item 6.1: some members had attended the re-opening of the Royal Commonwealth Pool, and the Craggs Sports Centre.

5.2 Item 8.1 – the litter pick in a wide area around the Craggs Sports Centre had been carried out on Saturday 17 March, with about a dozen volunteers helping. An enormous quantity of rubbish, including tents, mattresses, and such items as methadone bottles, and empty cans of hairspray had been collected.

5.3 Item 5.2 – Tom King had registered two website domain names at a cost of £14.35 for two years.

5.4 Item 8.3 – no progress in removing the litter from the disused premises in Bernard Terrace.

5.5 Item 8.4 – litter bin had been replaced at the Brown Street garden.

6. Secretary's report including 40th Anniversary plans and correspondence

6.1 Planning

6.1.1 PLANNING APPLICATION NO 12/00684/FUL

Dwelling house (flat) to become house of multiple occupancy (HMO).
Internal alterations to form six bedroom flat at 2F2 28 East Preston Street
Edinburgh EH8 9QB

Objection already submitted on grounds of overprovision etc. There was a discussion about how the planning dept arrived at their decisions, and Sheila Gilmore mentioned that if insufficient (fewer than six) objections are received, the application would be decided by an officer, rather than go to the full committee. David Wood said that the Council was reviewing its HMO policy.

6.1.2 PLANNING APPLICATION NO 12/00912/FUL

Change of use from workshop to coffee shop (class 3) with restricted cooking,

at 104 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9NQ
It was agreed to send a representation objecting to this application.

6.2 **Community Councils**

Elections for community councils throughout the city, scheduled to take place in October 2012, have been postponed until May 2013.

6.3 **South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Roads Capital Programme – South**

At a meeting held on 29 March the following proposals were confirmed after a vote by those present. There were 12 proposals in the SCNP area.

- a) Resurface the carriageway at Falcon Gardens (£45K)
- b) Resurface section of the southbound carriageway at Nicolson Street between Hill Place and West Richmond Street. (£40K) This proposal had been submitted by the Southside Community Council before it had been dissolved.

6.4 **Crags Community Sports Centre Gardening Initiative**

Preston Street Primary School pupils are holding a health week in the near future, including a gardening project, and the Crags Sports Centre, Castle Rock Edinvar, and the Engine Shed are keen to be involved. It has been suggested that the SA might like to support the idea; more information to follow.

6.5 **40th Anniversary**

The AGM would be held at 6.30pm on 1 May, and then at 7pm, a reception and party with jazz music. The sub-committee had met to make various arrangements and compile a guest list. A special edition of the Southsider will be produced in June, and the film 'Pull it Doon' will be shown during the Community Centre's 25th Anniversary week in mid-June. Colin was writing a short history of the Association from the (incomplete) minutes and records.

7. **Treasurer's report**

The balance is the same as last month.

In view of the forthcoming massive increase in postal charges, Colin had purchased 300 second class stamps, enough for about 18 months. Stationery and photocopying bill had been paid. Tom King had submitted the website bill for re-imburement.

8. **Environmental matters**

- 8.1 The wall of the Chinese barber's shop at Davie Street was heavily covered in graffiti. CC to ask the Council for guidance about who was responsible for removing it.
- 8.2 Bonnington's Deli/Café in Clerk Street. Ceiling brought down by flooding from a top flat, where five rooms were being used to grown cannabis plants. Police involved.

Thanks to Hilary McDowell for reporting the following various defects to Scottish Power and Scottish Water.

- 8.3 Wet and wobbly paving slabs outside 71 Clerk Street – water coming from a drain after Scottish Power had dug slabs up. SW informed.
- 8.4 Street lighting – 10 lamps dark on the Bridges corridor, and power still to be connected to the new lamp outside the Queen's Hall. Reported to SP.
- 8.5 Water flood in front garden of 81 Newington Road – reported to SW.

9. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor

No Councillor present.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 George Pitcher had attended the following two meetings, and had sent the relevant papers: the Environment and Town Centre Group on 12 March, and the SCNP Community Safety Group on 21 March.
- 10.2 Tom King said that there had been a mugging outside a post office in the Meadows area. Sandra McCormick was concerned about a late night busker in Clerk Street.
- 10.3 Tom King said that there was a photograph archive of the Southside on the Flicker website.
- 10.4 Caroline Barr reported that a green recycling bin had been placed at the east end of Rankeillor Street, after a long by campaign by her, and that glass and paper bins had been installed in the yard to the rear of her block.
- 10.5 Maggie Bagan wondered if someone from Lothian Regional Transport could be invited to a meeting to explain the re-routing of Services 2 and 14. CC to write.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1 May, at 6.30pm. Please note the earlier time.
