

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 10 January 2012, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Maggie Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Pauline Calder, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, Tom King, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Cllr Ian Perry, George Pitcher, Molly Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, Ola Uduku, Marjory Watson, and Joan Young.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Tributes were paid to Mary Devine, who died on 4 January.

Apologies for absence were received from Robert Beaton, PC Steve Cairns, Margaret Dalziel, Carol McHugh, Jean Miller, Robert Ross, Keith Smith, Louise Smith, and Colin Symes.

2. Police Report

PC Steve Cairns was unable to attend. Caroline Barr said that her stolen trike had not been recovered, and, having met two officers that day who knew nothing about the trike's loss, said that it seemed that not all officers read their briefing reports.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 1 November 2011

Agreed; proposed by Fiona Scott and seconded by Jan Fraser.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 Item 8 (hole in pavement at St Leonard's Street) – Cllr Rose had investigated, and had e-mailed to say that arrangements had been made to place a metal plate over the hole on a temporary basis to make the defect safe, and that Scottish Water had been issued with a defect notice requesting that repairs be carried out.

4.2 Item 5.1 (St Patrick Square garden)

CC had written to David Doig with the comments from members. David had replied as follows

The investment we intend to make here is about progressing the park for a further 50 - 80 years; the park does not at present comply with DDA regulations and as such we are actually in breach of the law. Importantly the idea of the pathways was to allow for this to happen. If we were to carry this out then we would have to move/remove the middle tree in any case, which then supports the idea of a new tree formation.

We are more than happy to listen to local views but we also have to consider how we promote and improve this area as we go forward. Some of these changes would go a long way to improving and promoting the park in a better light. It is part of the neighbourhood remit to Develop Parks and this is just one idea we had to improve the Southside Corridor.

Further consultation is to take place, and at a meeting of a new group, the South Central Environment and Town Centre Forum held on 9 January, and attended by George and Jo, David had said that the capital funding was now £40,000, and it was hoped to have this matched by a Lottery Heritage grant. More information would follow.

5. Review of Christmas Lights Event

It was agreed that the event had been the most successful ever although numbers were down on 2009. Attendance was approx 100 adults and 50 children. Colin had written to all who had contributed, including Tesco, who had made a substantial donation. The new catering arrangements, involving the Centre's kitchen staff as well as SA members, had worked very well.

Public Liability Insurance at a cost of £159 had been secured from a firm in Queen Street. This covers all SA activities for a year, both indoors and outdoors, wherever meetings are held. Previously insurance was provided under the policy held by the Southside Community Council.

The 2012 Lights Ceremony will be on Tuesday 4 December.

6. 40th Anniversary of the Association

The Southside Association will be forty years old in 2012. The Community Centre also reaches a milestone with its 25th anniversary, and Keith had written to all user groups asking for some ideas to commemorate this, with a week long programme of events from 18-23 June.

Colin said that a filing cabinet in the centre office is full of SA papers going back years, and it was agreed that he and Sandra would weed these, and dispose of

irrelevant material, as well as archiving useful stuff. He said that Scottish Television had been in touch as they were interested in a story.

Various suggestions were made to commemorate the 40th Anniversary, and it was agreed to form a sub-group to look at ideas. There were a number of people who could be approached for memories and Colin had asked Keith to contact them. It was suggested that the film 'Pull it Doon', made in 1995, could be shown at the AGM, or in the Centre's programme in June, and that the Heritage group could assist with photographs. Tom King knows a professional photographer with an archive of suitable photographs, and as the café would soon be repainted, an integrated exhibition could be held there. Tom has a supply of picture frames which he would be happy to lend the SA. An up to date video could be made.

Keith had lent Colin all the papers relating to the SA's 21st Anniversary in 1993. An ambitious programme had been mounted – an Exhibition, Quiz, Sports on the Meadows, a street party on Howden Street, a Church Service, a Ceilidh, two concerts, a heritage tour, a visit to Mary King's Close, and the then local authority, Lothian Regional Council, had hosted a reception in their HQ. An abstract from the minutes had been produced, going back as far as 1975, and it appeared that there were no longer records going back further.

A sub-group meeting will be held once the contents of the filing cabinet have been examined. Cllr Perry asked to be kept informed of plans.

7. Secretary's report and correspondence

7.1 Southside Community Council

The City's Neighbourhood Partnerships consists of various council departments, police, health service, and community councils. Following the decision to dissolve the Southside Community Council, the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership has invited the Southside Association to become a non-voting member until elections for CCs are held in the autumn. One member would be asked to attend from the Association, either co-opted or informally.

It was agreed to accept the offer to be co-opted, and that George Pitcher would be the Association's representative.

7.2 Planning Application for Deaconess House

*Proposed development of student residential accommodation (incorporating part conversion and part demolition of former NHS hospital buildings) with associated ancillary uses and amenity spaces at 142 - 148 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR
Reference 11/03986/FUL*

Plans can be viewed online through the Planning and Buildings Standards Portal at www.edinburgh.gov.uk here

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=LW5MAOEW7N000>

Some members had viewed the plans and it was agreed to write to the planning dept pointing out concerns that the social mix in the area would change with the influx of about 340 more students beds, and that recycling and waste disposal facilities should be included on the site.

- 7.3 Draft Natural Heritage Strategy for Edinburgh; comments by end of January. See www.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/scripts/home_info.php?homepageID=225
- 7.4 Following the dissolution of the Community Council, the SA were asked at very short notice to attend a meeting of Community Council Reps with NHS Lothian, on 17 November 2011, and Jo Scott agreed to attend on our behalf. There were proposals to move part of the rehabilitation services from the Astley Ainslie Hospital to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, and some people are unhappy with this. Minutes available. Jo agreed to attend the next meeting.

8. Treasurer's report

Fiona said that the balance at 30 December 2011 was £2526.37.

9. Environmental matters

With thanks to Hilary McDowell for the following information

- 9.1 Cellar access cover at 3 South Clerk Street – investigation about who has the responsibility for this.
- 9.2 Salisbury Road south side – gulleys full of rubbish.
- 9.3 Street lights – repairs required on Nicolson Street, Newington Road. Additional lighting outside the Queen's Hall was recommended some time ago.
- 9.4 Scottish Water should be repairing the roadway at the junction of West Richmond Street and Nicolson Street, as well as the junction at West Crosscauseway and Nicolson Street, plus a noisy loose manhole cover at the entrance to Nicolson Square. Missing toby covers at West Preston Street, Summerhall, and Causewayside junction.
- 9.5 Roads Project Funding – some suggestions from local people
1. Pavement on the corner of Parkside Terrace and Dalkeith Road on the Scottish Widows side. This corner was damaged by contractors some time ago.

2. The carriageway on Nicolson Street just past Nicolson Square going south. It is full of potholes and is very uncomfortable when on the bus, dangerous for cyclists and there is a very noisy manhole cover too. The carriageway going north was dealt with several months ago.

3. The west end of West Crosscauseway doesn't have any dropped kerbs and so must be very difficult for disabled and push chairs.

9.6 Ola pointed out that the lighting outside the Church of Life in Davie Street was in need of improvement.

10. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor

10.1 Cllr Perry had participated in previous discussions. He reminded members that the next local authority elections would be held on Thursday 6 May, and he thought that all four councillors would be seeking re-election.

10.2 Several members asked questions about the tram scheme.

10.3 Tom King raised the question about the SA doing more of the Community Council work, and it was pointed out that the SA was now checking, and commenting where necessary, on planning and licensing applications.

11. Any other business

11.1 Lisa said that an elderly man had been robbed at the door of the Post Office in South Clerk Street, and the culprit had boarded a bus and escaped. Police informed.

11.2 It was noted that the Lismore Rugby Club had vacated the premises on Pleasance and it was wondered what would become of these.

11.3 Colin had approached the Summerhall venue to see if they would be interested in attending a meeting to tell members of their plans and activities. Summerhall presents theatre, visual art, music, film, dance and literary events, as well as a creative education programme, in a unique former veterinary school campus. <http://www.summerhall.co.uk/>

Members suggested Matt McPherson (Chair of the Edinburgh University Students' Association), the Edinburgh Central MSP Marco Biagi, and Simon Turner from the Craggs Sports Centre be invited to attend as future speakers.

11.4 Tom Bonallo said that water leaked occasionally (for some time) from an electricity meter cupboard at the rear of flats at 130 Pleasance. George had already reported this.

11.5 Bob Hodgart said that the West Crosscauseway Association was still very active, and that the Causey Development Trust was the group which was leading the Causey Project.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2012.
