

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Centre on Tuesday 6 November 2012, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Margaret Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Ron Butlin, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, PC Kenny Hall, Bob Hodgart, Kenny McLeod, Eugene Mullan, Ethel Murray, Cllr Cameron Rose, Molly Ross, Fiona Scott, Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald, Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, and PC Graham Watt.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Barr, Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Sheila Gilmore MP, Tom King, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Hilary McDowell, Rose Mongan, George Pitcher, Robert Ross, Louise Smith, Colin Symes, and Marjory Watson.

2. Police Report

Sandra introduced PC Hall and PC Watt. A summary of statistics for September was given. 500 incidents were recorded. 181 crimes were reported, including 63 thefts, 23 assaults (mostly by people who know one another) with 5 of those on police officers, 10 vandalism, 18 drugs related, 15 breach of the peace, 5 racial, 3 fire-raising, 2 public urinations, 4 drunk drivers; and 94 were solved. This 52% solve rate is well above the Force's 40% target. More information on <http://www.lbp.police.uk/>

Operations Arable and Allegro are continuing. Bike thefts continue; there's a garage at Fettes full of stolen bikes. Bike marking is done from time to time at Bristo Square. A recent meeting had been held in the centre for about 50 local charity shop workers to give them advice on how to deal with shoplifters. A team at St Leonard's Police Station is preparing for the new national force, which starts on 1 April 2013. It is considered that it will 3 or 4 years before there are any noticeable changes at grass-roots level. The changes will mean that Lothian & Borders Police Force will disappear, and Edinburgh, West Lothian, East Lothian, and the Borders, will be regarded as individual units. After some questions from the floor, members thanked the two constables for their presentation.

3. Eugene Mullan from the Craggs Sports Centre

Sandra welcomed Eugene, who had attended the April meeting to tell members about the newly re-opened facilities at the Craggs Sports Centre. Now the Centre is applying for

funding to improve and develop the football pitch to the rear of the building to provide a secure multi-pitch facility for the community. Eugene outlined the proposals for better lighting, CCTV and audio, tree pruning, new surface markings, football and hockey goals, basketball hoops, and multi-sport surfacing; and it was agreed to write a letter in support of the Centre's endeavours. He distributed a short questionnaire for members to complete after some questions from the floor.

See W: <http://cragssports.com/> F: /cragssc T: @cragssports

4. Minutes of meeting held on 2 October 2012, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Maggie Bagan, and seconded by Jan Fraser.

4.1 Item 5.2 – Public Liability Insurance (£159.00, same as 2011) paid.

5. Secretary's Report, including arrangements for the Christmas lights ceremony and Carol Service

5.1 Colin gave a summary of the arrangements for the Christmas Lights event on 4 December.

5.2 He reminded members that the Association was entitled to nominate a representative to attend the meetings of the Community Centre's management committee.

5.3 Future speakers – Tuesday 8 January – speaker Anne Stewart and Michael Huddleston will describe the new service called *Community Connecting*, run by *Places for People*. This service is to support people over 65 years who have lost confidence in getting out and about in the community, and who as a result suffer social isolation and exclusion.

Tuesday 5 February – Marco Biagi, Constituency MSP for Edinburgh Central.

5.4 MABLAG (Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group) meeting on 7 November; Bob Hodgart agreed to represent Linda Hendry on behalf of the Association.

6. Treasurer's Report

Fiona said that the most recent balance stood at £1515.71.

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 **Planning Application 12/02808/ADV** Erect Illuminated Billboard at Parkside Bowling Club: refused, as "the signs do not comply with the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Scotland) Regulations 1984 as they will have an adverse impact on the amenity and appearance of the surrounding area". There are now questions about how the two recently installed billboards on the same site were

given consent as they have an adverse impact too. There are also questions about the dimensions of the billboards, and the ownership of the land on which one of them has been erected.

7.2 **Planning Application 12/03715/FUL** Change of use from shop to restaurant with take-away at 4-6 Nicolson Street. No representation submitted as premises already have consent for restaurant and café.

7.3 Maggie Bagan asked if the new café and cake shop at 3 South Clerk Street had consent; enquiries would be made.

8. Environmental matters

8.1 *South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Roads Capital Programme 2013-2014* - Submissions are required by 31 December 2012, and the selection committee will meet in March 2013. The budget is around £100,000. Suggestions – Montague Street south pavement – from east to half way along; the path near the Magnet Play area in the Meadows at the pedestrian crossing needs properly aligned (although that might be covered under another scheme).

The successful local application for 2012-2013 was to improve the east carriageway at Nicolson Street (outside Lidl's) and it was noted that this work had been completed in October.

8.2 *Environment and Town Centre Priority Group* - Meeting attended by Jo Scott and George Pitcher on 29 October; minutes available.

9. Question and Answer session with the attending Councillor

Cllr Rose had participated in previous discussions. He outlined the progress about the changes to the waste collection service, and said that things were gradually improving.

10. Any other business

10.1 Jo Scott said that the short-life working group looking at HMOs had been re-instated. It should now be possible to access information about HMO licence holders on the Council's website.

10.2 Random Switch wondered if the Living Wage had an impact on the Council. Cllr Rose said that thousands of Council staff will benefit from the introduction of the living wage from January next year. The proposal, announced during [Living Wage Week](#) is to set the figure at £7.50, five pence above the recommended rate.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday **4 December** 2012 – Christmas Lights Event. St Patrick Square, and then the Community Centre.

Tuesday **8 January** 2013 – Anne Stewart and Michael Huddleston from *Places for People*; and *to be confirmed* Scott Wilkins and Angus Calder about the Braidwood Bike Skills Park.

12. Guest Speaker: Ron Butlin, the Edinburgh Makar

Sandra introduced Ron, who had switched on the Festive lights at St Patrick Square in December 2011. He had been appointed Edinburgh's own official poet or Makar in 2008 after a lifetime in music and writing, including novels, short stories, and plays; and since then he has celebrated the city's highs and lows in verse, and indeed he entertained members with a wonderfully warm, witty, and magical poetry recital. His verses about the trams were particularly appreciated, and he was thanked enthusiastically by all.
