

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 4 June 2013, at 7pm

PRESENT: Lisa Sibbald (Chair), Margaret Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Susan Brown, Colin Christison (Secretary), Pete Dibdin, Evelyn Duff, Moira Gibson, PC Kenny Hall, Tom King (Vice Chair), Isobel Leckie, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Hilary McDowell, Joe Miller, Ethel Murray, Cllr Cameron Rose, Molly Ross, Jo Scott, Colin Symes, Justine Taylor, Shona Thomson, and David Wood.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Lisa Sibbald welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Vera Anderson, Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Sheila Gilmore MP, Vicky MacDonald, Sandra McCormick, Kenny McLeod, George Pitcher, Pamela Spiers, Keith Smith, Louise Smith, Derek Suttie, Random Switch, Marjory Watson, and Joan Young.

2. Police Report

Lisa welcomed PC Kenny Hall. He said that there had been 361 reported crimes in the area over the last two months, with 210 (58%) having been solved. These included 15 assaults, mainly minor ones; 30 thefts; 53 anti-social behaviour incidents; 9 possessions of offensive weapons; 37 possessions of controlled drugs; and 2 concerning the supply of drugs. Once a month, on Fridays, as part of the campaign against violence initiative, uniformed police from the rank of superintendent downwards will be patrolling the streets on foot. He also reported on the cash skimming devices which had been found on autotellers in the city, including locally, recently, and asked people to take care when withdrawing cash, and to report instances of tampering to the bank and/or the police. There were questions from the floor about parking on the Caithness granite pavement outside the Royal College of Surgeons, and traffic congestion because of careless parking in Nicolson Square. Kenny reminded members about the new '101' telephone number for non-emergencies.

3a. Guest Speakers: Pete Dibdin and Shona Thomson, Photography Project, Causey Development Trust

Lisa introduced David Wood, Chairperson of the CDT, who said a few words about the organisation, and who then introduced the photographer Pete Dibdin and the project organiser Shona Thomson.

Shona explained that Pete is a local professional photographer. His project on behalf of the Causey Development Trust is called 'Southsiders: Portrait of a Community' and it aims to use photography to help celebrate and discuss perceptions of the Southsider identity through

portraits, and by gathering stories and memories about the area and community. Pete is looking for people who live, work, or have a specific connection with the Southside to participate in an exciting photography project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund 'All our Stories' programme, and Foundation Scotland (which will fund a newspaper).

Pete then expanded on the project, showing examples of his previous work, which reflect his passion for photographic portraiture. He hopes to photograph 40 people, and then a selection of 8 photographs will be displayed on the Causey from 7 September to 4 October. He also mentioned that Joe Miller will make a short documentary film about the project. Pete is very keen to hear suggestions of subjects for stories and photographs.

3b. Guest Speaker: Justine Taylor, Waste Development Officer, City of Edinburgh Council, on Recycling in Edinburgh

Lisa welcomed Justine Taylor, who made a detailed illustrated presentation about the City Council's recycling policies and ambitions, particularly about food recycling. Information leaflets were distributed; please see

<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/1055/recycling> and
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20047/reducing_and_reusing

4. Minutes of meeting of 1 April 2013, and matters arising

Approved; proposed by Caroline Barr and seconded by Molly Ross.

- 4.1 Item 2 (Odeon) – Gerry Boyle had been in touch to say that work had started and that he hoped that the premises would open in early August as planned. The 'To Let' notices will be removed sometime in June.
- 4.2 Item 4.2 (Liquor licence application for Sainsbury's Nicolson Street) - application granted.
- 4.3 Item 4.5 (Homebase property) – new manager hoping to get the ground at the front tidied up.

5. Secretary's Report

- 5.1 Christmas lights – Tuesday 3 December booked by the Council.
- 5.2 Copies of the revised constitution were distributed as required.
- 5.3 The formation of a new Southside Community Council requires the submission of a petition containing a minimum of 20 signatures to the City Council; so far only a few people had signed it.

6. Treasurer's Report

On behalf of Jan Fraser, Colin reported that the balance at 15 May 2012 was £2104.08. This included a deposit of £920.00 from the Southsider (sum to be ring-fenced for the future); the Southsider a/c balance was £3.50, account to be closed.

OSCR Annual Return form had been received; Raymond Scott would complete in due course.

7. Planning and Licensing Matters

- 7.1 Objection lodged and acknowledged for Late Hours Catering 5am at 101 Nicolson Street (Domino's Pizza).
- 7.2 Objection lodged and acknowledged for LHC 1am at 21 Newington Road (Wild).
- 7.3 PAN – Lutton Court – proposed development of student accommodation (incorporating demolition of existing business units) with associated ancillary uses and amenity space: exhibition of proposed plans to take place on Thursday 27 June 2012, from 15.00-19.30 at Lutton Court.

8. Environmental Matters

- 8.1 TRO Cowan's Close – introduce 24 hour waiting restrictions outside and opposite Hope Park Nursery School.
- 8.2 TRO Lady Nicolson Court, and South College Street - new developments not to be issued with residents' parking permits.
- 8.3 Edinburgh Local Development Plan – various documents setting out policies and proposals to guide land use and development are available for inspection at Waverley Court, and at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan
- 8.4 Hilary MacDowell made the following report:
 - 8.4.1 **Bins:** Requests have been made about how to get on-street bins washed and lids replaced, for brown bins to be replaced tidily on the street after emptying, for replacement bags for textiles and paper in the blue and red boxes and for food waste bins not to be stacked one inside another and to be emptied when paper is used to contain the waste rather than plastic bags. No reply has come on any of these requests. HM will meet Cllr Orr to try to get some answers. She also reported the bin collection has been a day or two late for several weeks.
 - 8.4.2 **Roads:** There is a particularly long backlog of reports of potholes at present. The broken and wobbly paving slabs outside Tesco on Nicolson Street at the kerb side are known to the dept. Potholes on Salisbury Rd and Blackwood Crescent have been reported along with a broken manhole cover on the pavement on Melville Drive. A cover should be placed over that soon. Request for extra parking checks to be made opposite the Festival Theatre as there is constant parking on the pavement there by certain shop keepers. There was a discussion about providing bollards in this location but it was generally felt that no more bollards should be placed in the area. Poor state of pavement outside the British Heart Foundation shop in Nicolson Street.
 - 8.4.3 **Trees:** Request made for the tree stumps and dead rowan tree to be removed from Lutton Place and for new trees, preferably cherry trees, to be planted. There are metal gratings round the base of some trees on the Pleasance that are now too tight. They should be inspected and replaced in the next few weeks. There will be

some new trees on the Meadows as part of the North Meadow Walk cycling upgrade.

- 8.4.4 **Meadows:** Drainage work is due to happen soon. Work was done in this area 10 years ago and then more some 5 years ago. The Events review should be underway by now. It needs to start now if it is to be in place before bookings are taken for next year. It was agreed that CC would write to Cllr Hinds, and the local councillors, as soon as possible.
- 8.4.5 **Street Market at the Royal Commonwealth Pool:** The issues causing concern are spills of grease from the hot foods, which are having to be dealt with each week by the operator, and parking on Holyrood Park Road which mean that cyclists cannot use the cycle lane as it is occupied by traffic turning left. Some people are asking for an extension to the double yellow lines in this area especially at the entrance into the pool and approaching the traffic lights.
- 8.4.6 **Flyposting:** The main offender in the area at present is the Scottish Socialist party. It was agreed to write to the Southside Community Centre's management committee to ask them to consider stopping the lease for the Gray Room in the Nelson Hall to this group until they promise to remove the posters and give an undertaking not to flypost in this area in the future.

9. **Question and Answer session with the attending Councillor**

Susan Brown asked Cllr Rose about the proposal to close the Engine Shed after the Council's grant stops in March 2014. A petition was circulated for members to sign. Cllr Rose gave some background information about the enterprise, emphasising its success in placing people in supported employment over a long period, and the importance of keeping it open. The proposal is still in consultation and there is every chance that it will be reworked.

Molly Ross expressed her concern and frustration about the difficulty of crossing Bernard Terrace at the St Leonard's Street junction, and about speeding vehicles, and asked if traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing could be installed there. Cllr Rose said that the 20mph pilot scheme covering a large area of the Southside will be completed in October, but Bernard Terrace is an arterial 30mph route. It is thought that there is some traffic displacement leading to an increase in traffic on that street, and heavy lorries feeding the building work at Deaconess House are contributing to the increase.

Cllr Rose mentioned that there were still issues with overflowing communal bins in the area. He said that the Transport Committee had withdrawn the proposals for the Princes and George Streets traffic schemes for review.

10. **Any other business**

- 10.1 Report of an attempt to buy alcohol at 7.30am at newsagent in West Preston St. Shop-keeper refused to serve the pushy male individual.
- 10.2 East Parkside Proprietors' Association: Reports made of raves and late night/early morning drumming sessions in and around the Innocent Railway Tunnel. Further disturbances, as well as the potential for damage, caused by skateboarders and extreme street cyclists in the early hours of the morning.

10.3 Colin Symes said that a food bank is operating at the Community Church on Thursday mornings, with recipients being referred through agencies.

11. Date of next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 September. Please note that this is a week later than usual to allow time for the Community Centre to be returned to normal after its use as a Fringe venue.