

# 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 5 March 2013, at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Margaret Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Susan Brown, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Bob Hodgart, Tom King, Isobel Leckie, May Linton (Membership Secretary), PC Leon Malinowski, Cedric Maynard, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, George Pitcher, Molly Ross, Jo Scott, Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, and Joan Young.

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Vera Anderson, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, Sandra McCormick (Chair), Robert Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Louise Smith, Derek Suttie, Colin Symes, Marjory Watson, and David Wood.

### 2. Police Report

Lisa introduced PC Leon Malinowski. He said that he had been working from St Leonard's Police Station for eight years, and was now part of the seven-strong Southside Community Police team. A recent meeting of the Community Safety Group had established three local policing priorities: illegal parking and misuse of 'no entry' signs at Nicolson Square; Meadows Play Park; and illegal parking outside Preston Street Primary School. Measures were in hand to deal with these matters. Policing to deal with aggressive begging, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse etc was continuing. The by-law prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public at Nicolson Square didn't extend to the benches outside Surgeons' Hall, where there tended to be trouble. He reminded people to contact the police to report anything suspicious, and mentioned the new non-emergency telephone **number 101**, which had recently come into effect. He mentioned recent assaults and robbery in the Meadows.

Suggestions, comments, and questions from the floor included having a period of grace at the start of each academic year for parents double and triple parking outside the primary school; drugs dealers operating in East Parkside; and parking at the bus stop outside the Nelson Hall.

### 3. Guest speakers from Deloitte's and 'Glasgow 2014', about the Commonwealth Games 2014

Lisa welcomed Niall Alcock from Deloitte's (Planning Consultants) and Martin Bowie from Glasgow 2014. As part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Royal Commonwealth Pool will be hosting the diving competitions. A planning application will be submitted in April, and the guests gave a brief summary of the processes required to install the infrastructure connected with these games. Permission will be sought for some lane closures, parking restrictions, and for a variety of temporary installations to be constructed around the Royal Commonwealth Pool, including tents, portacabins, shipping containers, and fences, as part of the work to convert the area into a 'Games

Venue' providing security and facilities for spectators, media, athletes, and officials. If all goes to plan, the site will be surrounded by a 2.4m high fence, work will start in June 2014, with the venue being in use from 23 July for practice periods, the events themselves, and the dismantling, until 2 August. The RCP re-opened in 2012 after a major refurbishment, and particular care will be taken to ensure that no damage is done to the venue. There will be no road closures, just lane restrictions, and as it was acknowledged that there is likely to be pressure on parking in the surrounding streets, people will be encouraged not to travel by car. Masson House at Pollock Halls of Residence will be used as a day village for the athletes. Appropriate signage will be installed. The pool will be out of use to the public for the least possible time.

After some questions from the floor, Lisa and the members thanked Niall and Martin for attending.

Please see [www.glasgow2014.com](http://www.glasgow2014.com) and <http://glasgow2014.com/royal-commonwealth-pool-community-consultation-boards>.

#### **4. Minutes of meeting held on 5 February 2013, and matters arising**

Agreed; proposed by Linda Femister and seconded by Molly Ross.

- 4.1 Item 3 – Marco Biagi MSP had sent a message to say that the expected completion date for the Borders rail link is the summer of 2015, and that Edinburgh-Glasgow rail improvement package is intended to deliver a reduction in journey time to 42 minutes.
- 4.2 Item 7.1 (Commonwealth Games 2014) – proposal of application notice approved.
- 4.3 Item 7.3 (Planning Enforcement 3 S Clerk St) – no action to be taken.
- 4.4 Item 9 (Parking outside Preston St Primary School) – Cllr Rose had requested the police to give the double and triple parking more attention.

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

- 5.1 Reminder that Gerry Boyle will attend the meeting on 2 April to describe his plans for the former *Odeon* site.
- 5.2 The Association's Constitution: copies of the existing, together with copies of the proposed new constitution, with a list of the proposed amendments, were distributed. The proposed changes are a tidying-up exercise, getting rid of minor errors and archaic language, removing the references to Council input as the SA no longer get a grant, and setting the maximum tenure of office for Chair and Vice as three years. To be discussed at the April meeting for ratification at the AGM in May.
- 5.3 SCNP – Community Safety Priority Group: proposed Community Safety Themed Event's provisional date is Wednesday 15 May, in the Meadows. Marquee for numerous exhibitors, with details to follow.
- 5.4 Review of Neighbourhood Partnerships by the Council – meetings to be held at City Chambers on 5, 8, and 15 March. Details from Colin.

- 5.5 The Council has published statistics on HMO. As of 11.2.13 there are 6,557 HMO licences in the city, with 30% in the Meadows/Morningside Ward, 23.5% in the Southside/Newington ward, 19.9 in the City Centre ward, with the remainder in other areas.
- 5.6 The Edinburgh Local Development plan will be published after 19 March, and the period for submitting representations about it will begin around 1 May.
- 5.7 Preston St Primary School – P6 are having a French café event on 20 March at 9am. Some members volunteered to attend.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The balance remained at £1289.83.

## **7. Planning and Licensing matters**

- 7.1 Illuminated advertising signs at Parkside Bowling Club – enforcement declined. Third application was refused, and the first two successful applications did not comply with the specifications. The reasons for refusal of third should have been applied to the first two.
- 7.2 Liquor licence for Sainsbury's, 52 Nicolson Street: it was agreed to object.

## **8. Environmental matters**

- 8.1 MABLAG- additional meeting about barbeques on the Meadows and Links to be held on 25 March – Bob Hodgart agreed to attend in place of Linda Hendry,
- 8.2 Revised plans for the improvements to North Meadow Walk have been published and it is hoped that the work will be carried out in May and June.
- 8.3 SCNP Environment and Town Centre Priority Group meeting held on 25 February – attended by George Pitcher and Jo Scott. Notes available, and minutes will appear in due course. Jo suggested that the garden area which has seats and shrubs north of the Homebase entrance could be the area chosen for this year's environmental clean-up.
- 8.4 Events on the Meadows – comments had been invited by the Council (with a very short period to reply) from local groups about licence applications for large scale events such as the Urban Circus. The SA had written to say that the long-term damage done to the Meadows was unacceptable. It was clear from comments by Council staff that consent had already been given to events for 2013, and that the formal annual review of the parks events manifesto had not been arranged for this year. After some discussion about the Meadows, Colin wondered if the two Community Councils (Tollcross, and Marchmont & Sciennes) neighbouring the Meadows, as well as MABLAG and FoMBL should form a group (with representation from the SA in the absence of a Southside Community Council) to contribute to the manifesto's review. Link is:  
  
[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/4225/parks\\_event\\_manifesto](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/4225/parks_event_manifesto).
- 8.5 Tom Bonallo said that the railings and steps down to Dumbiedykes from Briery Bauks were in a state of disrepair and a potential danger to the public. He thought that major repairs

were necessary, perhaps with rebuilding of the steps. Colin would write to the Council. Tom was pleased to see that three trees had been planted in Brown St gardens.

- 8.6 Hilary McDowell asked if the Association would write to Homebase about the poor condition (broken slabs, badly maintained bark chipping etc) of the area belonging to them at the west of their building in St Leonard's Street; Colin would do so.

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

No Councillor present.

**10. Any other business**

- 10.1 Molly Ross wondered about the future of the former Woolfson building in Bernard Terrace; no-one was sure.
- 10.2 Susan Brown asked about the SA's sub-groups; apart from the committee, there was just the planning and licensing one.
- 10.3 Margaret Bagan mentioned that the Centre's Service Support Officer, Jim Cairns, would soon retire, and suggested that the SA gives him a gift.
- 10.4 Pamela Spiers said that David Mouat, the SSO at the Nelson Hall, would be moving to Panmure St Ann's School, and that the present janitor of Preston Street Primary School would take over David's duties, as well as continue his own at the School.
- 10.5 Tom King asked about the dissemination of licensing applications from the Council. Community Councils receive some, and Colin said he would ask the Licensing section of the Council if the SA could be added to any distribution list. There does not seem to be a formal method of notification, unlike the planning application and decision system.
- 10.6 May Linton said that the Rev Ian Maxwell would be leaving the Kirk O'Field Parish Church in August, and that the Church would be closed.
- 10.7 Vicki MacDonald from Edinburgh Markets joined the meeting and discussed her planning application for a street market outside the Royal Commonwealth Pool.

**11. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 2 April.

---