

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 10 September 2013, at 7pm

PRESENT: Tom King (Vice-Chair), Vera Anderson, Margaret Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Colin Christison (Secretary), Jan Fraser (Treasurer), Moira Gibson, Isobel Leckie, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Hilary McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, George Pitcher, Cllr Cameron Rose, Molly Ross, Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, and Marjory Watson.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Tom King welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Barr, Susan Brown, Linda Femister, Sheila Gilmore MP, PC Kenneth Hall, Bob Hodgart, Vicky MacDonald, Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald (Chair), Keith Smith, Louise Smith, Derek Suttie, Nwola Uduku, PC Graham Watt, David Wood, and Joan Young.

2. Police Report

As PCs Hall and Watt were unable to attend, they had given Colin a brief verbal report: not a lot happening, apart from the seasonal increase in pickpocketing and thefts during the Festival period, and a recent increase in thefts of pedal cycles. They stressed that people should dial **101** to talk to local police, report vandalism, stolen vehicles, etc, and to dial 999 for more serious crime. Cards detailing this information were distributed. Items of clothing and footwear had been stolen from a local charity shop on 2 September after the volunteer had been mobbed by some women.

3. Minutes of meeting of 4 June 2013, and matters arising

Approved; proposed by Hilary McDowell, and seconded by Isobel Leckie.

- 3.1 Item 5.3 (Community Council): the required number of signatures from people on the electoral roll who wanted to see the re-establishment of a Southside CC had been exceeded, and the City Council had agreed that the area will be included in the forthcoming elections for new community councillors.
- 3.2 Item 7.2 (Late hours catering at 21 Newington Rd): application had been granted. These premises have since become a Nepalese restaurant, and now close at 10pm.
- 3.3 Item 8.4.5 (Street Market at Royal Commonwealth Pool): market had closed.
- 3.4 Item 9 (Engine Shed): the decision had been made that Specialist Employability services (which includes the Engine Shed) will continue to be funded as usual for the next financial year starting April 2014. This gives the City Council time to explore the options for the long term funding of services that help people with disabilities into paid work.

4. Secretary's Report

- 4.1 Edinburgh Doors Open Days 2013 are on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September.
- 4.2 The Causey Development Trust is mounting a portrait exhibition using both photography and audio, in print and online, to celebrate and explore perceptions around the identity of the Southside community. 38 people who live, work, or have a connection with the area have been photographed by Peter Dibdin (who attended our June meeting) in locations holding a special significance for them. Participants also recorded the audio story behind their portraits to uncover the moving, inspirational, and significant contribution the Southside makes to the history and heritage of Edinburgh. Copies of a newspaper-style publication detailing all the photographs and stories were distributed. The exhibition at Inspace, 1 Crichton Street, runs from 7 September until 5 October. There is a public panel discussion event in the Community Centre on Friday 4 October, at 7pm, to respond to the ideas and questions raised by the event, and a film about the project will be screened. The panel will consist of Peter Dibdin, the Edinburgh Makar Ron Butlin, a participant featured in the exhibition, and a representative from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.
- 4.3 Christmas Carol and Lights Event, on Tuesday 3 December: the MC will be Cllr Rose, the Minister will be the Rev Alex MacDonald from the Buccleuch Free Church, and the lights will be switched on by Sarah Boyack MSP. A committee meeting will be fixed for some time in October.
- 4.4 Community Councils – information leaflets detailing the timetable for the city-wide community council elections were handed out.
- 4.5 Instant Arena (former *Odeon* cinema): refurbishment of part of the building was continuing, and it appeared that the premises would be opening 'fairly soon'. The negotiations between Gerry Boyle and the various Council departments and other agencies are inevitably taking some time, and it was reported that he is very pleased with the support from locals.
- 4.6 South Oxford Street is to be included in a pilot on-street pedal cycle parking scheme. This will mean that seven metres of single yellow line will be replaced by seven metres of a designated pedal cycle parking area. In Gifford Park, there will be a slight relocation of a parking space for permit holders.
- 4.7 The Civic Forum (Cockburn Association) meeting due to be held on 17 September has been cancelled; the next scheduled meeting is on 3 December.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jan Fraser said that the most recent balance was £2104.08.

6. Planning and Licensing Matters

- 6.1 Illuminated billboard at Parkside Bowling Club: the Scottish Government's Reporter had dismissed the appeal by Forrest Media in relation to the enforcement notice to remove the billboard at the SW corner of the club as it had not been erected in accordance with the approved advertisement consent.
- 6.2 Proposed development of student accommodation at 20-26 Bernard Terrace and 19 Luton Place: exhibition was on 27 June. Planning application will follow.
- 6.3 13/03520/FUL Planning application for change of use to form hot food takeaway at 86 Nicolson Street, EH8 9EW. It was agreed to object on grounds of loss of retail unit and considerable over-provision of take-away shops.

7. Environmental Matters

- 7.1 Artwork on the Meadows: the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have submitted an application for matching funding with Scottish Power) to put murals on the south side of the SP substation at the intersection of Middle and North Meadow Walks.
- 7.2 Meadows: review of events 2013. Comments required about the Meadows Festival, Meadows Festival Funfair, The Ladyboys of Bangkok, and the Fringe Sunday Funfair. The area of the East Meadows used by the Ladyboys was the only matter of concern, and it was agreed that CC would write to say that there were strong feelings that the land there should be rested for at least a year, if not two, and that an area of hard-standing, such as at Ocean Terminal, should be found for the show. Heavy equipment used for the show caused severe damage to the East Meadows, with drainage pipes being broken and huge areas of grass being gouged up. Not enough time is allowed for the land to recover.
- 7.3 Environment and Town Centre Priority Group: Minutes from meeting on 20 June 2013 (attended by George Pitcher and Jo Scott) now available.
- 7.4 Environment and Town Centre Priority Group: meeting held on 9 September, attended by Jo Scott, who sent the following report: **Communal food waste bins** can be washed if you phone to request - 529 3030. **Recycling** - plans to get rid of some red and blue boxes and supply, in their place, bins to take all cardboard, paper, plastic, including the plastic cartons used for fruit and vegetables, and yogurt cartons. Still in planning stages, implementation expected next year, needs new vehicles. **Student initiative**: 'Shrub Swop Shop' in Guthrie Street. Departing students can hand in items which are checked by students trained to do this, for handing out to first years during freshers' week - toasters, kettles etc. which are no further use especially to foreign students. Pollock now provides skips at end of academic year for students to dump surplus goods. The students run a shop at Guthrie Street and can gain experience in doing that and doing electrical checks on donated goods. The NP gave a grant to help start this. It was noticed that there did not seem to be so much mess in the streets over recent times at the end of term. **Summer tidy up** - railings in Dumbiedykes painted, shrubs trimmed, garage doors painted, some tidying at back of Viewcraig gardens still to be done. **Hill Square** is to be improved in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons, with new planting of medicinal plants. Tree stumps to be removed. **St Patrick Square** will be improved, including the pavement around the square. **Nicolson Square** is to have some new planting on a blue theme, and the unappealing grasses will go.
- 7.5 Tom King said that the extended pavement at the east of Bernard Terrace, installed to make it safer to cross the road, had actually made the whole junction more hazardous. Vehicles have to drive on the wrong side of the road to get into Bernard Terrace. Hilary McDowell mentioned that the Council had said it would return the crossing to its previous arrangement if necessary.
- 7.6 Hilary McDowell reported on the following: **North Meadow Walk** upgrade was almost complete. Finishing details should be done soon now the embargo on work during the festival is lifted. More signage, tactile surfaces, removal of a tree stump and tarmacking of a small section on south side of Melville Drive. Surface is very good and popular with cyclists. More trees have been planted as part of this and if anyone wants to know more about trees on the Meadows should go to the Friends of Meadows meeting in November. There was a major water leak during the work which affected much of the city. **Flyposting**: Festival - very little as a result of official sites. Freshers' week -some has appeared this week. Scottish Socialist party still have lots up on some sites, despite being asked to remove. **Bins**: Council contractors still often put them back very randomly despite complaints. Collections often missed or a day late. An area has been marked at foot of Sciennes for recycling bins. **MABLAG** talked about the proposed drainage work due for the Meadows, reinstatement after the Ladyboys show, the hope that the Moonwalk will go back to Leith Links, volunteers welcome to help with small tasks on the Meadows, and the planned review.

8. Question and Answer session with the attending Councillor

Cllr Rose had commented on various subjects mentioned previously. He said that there were still significant problems with the uplift of refuse and recycling material.

9. Any other business

9.1 Caroline Barr had sent a message to say that she felt that it was necessary for more local shops to provide portable accessibility ramps for the disabled; she wants to prepare a leaflet for shops detailing how such ramps may be obtained, and then to give the shops which do provide ramps with a window or door sticker. She thought the cost would be up to £70.00, and she asked if the Association would fund the plan. It was agreed in principle to assist, but it was thought that such stickers could probably be provided by the Council, or another organisation. CC to discuss with CB, and to make enquiries with the Council.

9.2 There was some discussion about the group's continuing representation on the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, and it was agreed to wait until the outcome of the election, if one is required, for community councillors. There was further discussion about amenity groups, and modern methods of communicating in the digital age.

9.3 May Linton reported that there were 33 paid-up members to date, as well as two honorary members.

9.4 Moira Gibson said that the University of Edinburgh will submit some planning applications in the near future.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1 October 2013, at 7pm, at the above venue.