

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 7pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Dora Lola-Luz, Nino Lola-Luz, Hilary McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, and Jo Scott; and Sarah Burns, Councillor Alison Dickie, and Sgt David Cuthbert.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed condolences from the Association to the family of the late Alison Blamire, of the firm Arcade Architects, and one of the founder members of the Causey Development Trust.

Apologies for absence were received from Fran Gifford, Bob Hodgart, Philip McDowell, Carol McHugh, Maggie Peatfield, and Colin Symes.

2. Police Report

Sergeant David Cuthbert was welcomed to the meeting. He said that October and November had been busy, particularly around Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night, although there hadn't been nearly so much trouble and anti-social behaviour in the Southside compared to other parts of the city. Nevertheless there were problems with ASB by two groups of youths in East Crosscauseway, Buccleuch Street, Nicolson Street, Carnegie Court, and around the Craggs Sports Centre; some of the people had been charged, including the ring-leader, and problems had lessened. The police were concentrating on areas to tackle, and as part of that, a 'Week of Action' would start on Monday 13 November, in conjunction with *streetwork* <http://www.streetwork.org.uk/>, and Nicolson Square would be targeted. There are still ongoing issues with graffiti and vandalism, and a large number of thefts of pedal cycles, some of which are expensive. Some arrests were made around Richmond Place in connection with drug peddling. Extra resources will be available for policing in the period up to Christmas. Answering some questions, Sgt Cuthbert said that the youth problems were caused by local ones, rather than ones from outwith the area; that the Skelf Bike Park hadn't suffered any real problems; and he noted a report from a member about irresponsible driving by a student from the Unite Building (The Old Printworks) in Bernard Terrace onto Lutton Place. Sgt Cuthbert was thanked for his report.

3. Guest speaker: Sarah Burns, Manager, South East Locality

Colin said that he had sent a get well card to Mags Campbell, the South East Locality Development Officer, on behalf of the Association.

He introduced Sarah Burns, who discussed the South East Locality Improvement Plan. Here are the key elements of the plan:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is South East?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of 4 Localities in Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Wards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morningside
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southside / Newington
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberton / Gilmerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Neighbourhood Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Central
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberton Gilmerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 126,000 residents

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Locality Improvement Plans (LIPs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities required to develop a LIP under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Local Community Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to achieve better outcomes for those individuals and communities experiencing the greatest inequality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on early intervention and prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with public sector partners, third sector and local people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Locality-wide and small area action plans

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East LIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locality-wide priorities around 5 themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Young People and Families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy & Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small area plans for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southside Corridor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumbiedykes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 communities within Liberton and Gilmerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre

Engagement to inform the Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement activity since November 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of data, eg Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other sources such as local surveys (Southside Community Council survey), Place Standard events, Here & Now studies.

• Attendance at community events, special meetings.
• Drop in sessions
• Neighbourhood Partnerships

• Southside Corridor – small area plan
• Reduce street clutter
• Improve conditions for cyclists
• Improve public spaces
• Increase youth work provision
• Involve students in volunteering and community
• Improve local information on services
• Tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in partnership
• Establish walkabouts
• Co-ordinate approach to tackling street drinking, begging

• Next stages of process – key dates
• Culture and Communities Committee – 14 November 2017 – Plans presented for Council endorsement
• Edinburgh Partnership – 7 December 2017 – Plans presented for Partnership endorsement
• Engagement on local / citywide governance arrangements – commencing December 2017
• Neighbourhood Partnership meetings – December 2017 / January 2018

There was a general discussion about the aims of the Local Improvement Plan. As resources become more stretched it is important to develop and strengthen partnership working. The South East Locality is diverse, with 22,000 residents on the City Centre ward alone, and 124,000 in the rest of the South East defined area. Visitors and night-time economy put certain demands on Council services. There are deep-rooted issues in some areas, and they will be targeted for special attention. Tactics and achievability were discussed, and how enforcement could be improved and sustained.

It was noted that the last ‘deep clean’ of the area took place in 2009 and the Association hoped that another one could take place on the back of the refurbishment and resurfacing project in the New Year. (See Environmental report) Isobel Leckie reminded members about Living Streets Edinburgh www.livingstreetsedinburgh.org.uk an organisation which had given a talk to the group a couple of years ago, and which takes a huge interest in improving streetscape for all.

Members thanked Sarah for attending the meeting.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2017, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Maggie Bagan and seconded by Jo Scott.

4.1 *Item 4.1 (the Nelson Hall)* - it was understood that SCOOSH had not signed the lease for their tenancy of the Nelson Hall.

4.2 *Item 4.2 (Causey Development Trust)* – Isobel Leckie said that the revised Traffic Regulation Order was now in progress, and that statutory bodies would receive letters in early December inviting comment, with about a month in which to respond. The TRO detail will be available publically for comment in mid-January.

4.3 *Item 5.1 (the Community Centre)* – the provision of janitorial service in terms of hours is still under negotiation but things are looking a bit more positive.

4.4 *Item 9 (Councillor’s report)* – the removal of the ramp at Hill Square which had been in use during the Fringe had resulted in the restoration of a parking space.

5. Chair’s Report

5.1 Consultations

5.1.1 The Council is having its Annual Review of Major Events in Parks for the season 2016 – 2017. Feedback from this review will help them to identify any problems or issues which arose and highlight the benefits of these events. Information gathered will allow them to mitigate concerns by adapting management arrangements in future years.

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service welcomes views and feedback; the link below leads directly to the consultation through which any comments or suggestions can be made. This consultation will close on Wednesday 22 November 2017 and the results reported to the Transport and Environment Committee in March 2018.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/parks-events-review-2016-17>

5.1.2 Edinburgh Licensing Board requires to consult on the terms of its Statement of Licensing Policy. The Board has agreed to begin with an informal consultation on the [current policy](#), and encourages responses on all parts of the policy.

Some consideration has already been given to the following topics:

- Children and Young Persons’ access to licensed premises
- Use of outdoor drinking areas
- Licensing of “pop-up” bars
- Extended use of Occasional Licences
- Overprovision
- Use of Extended Hours for events

The Board is keen however to encourage as broad a range of responses as possible.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cg/edinburgh-licensing-board-consultation-on-statement/>

5.1.3 Advertising drums

Until October 2017, eighteen advertising drums were located on various city-centre streets to promote Edinburgh’s cultural venues and community events. City Centre Posters (CCP) manage the advertising drums and now plan to replace the old drums with newly designed ones that will complement Edinburgh’s unique city landscape. Eight different options for the new design have been developed. Comments by 17 December. See https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/drums_design/

5.2 Southside Christmas Carol Service and Lights Ceremony

This will take place on Tuesday 5 December at St Patrick Square and afterwards in the Community Centre. Cllr Dickie will host, Colin Symes will lead the service, and the lights will be switched on by the boxer Alex Arthur. Preston Street Primary School choir and the University of Edinburgh Music Society will sing and perform.

6. Treasurer's Report

Hilary reported that the present bank balance stood at £958.61.

7. Planning & Licensing matters

7.1 136 Nicolson Street – a number of planning applications had been submitted after an ATM was installed without consent. The installer of the auto-teller equipment for these and many other premises flaunts the planning system by applying for consent after the event, if anyone objects. We objected to this practice, and although we do not object to auto-tellers we object to the garish blue lights which surround them which are grossly out of keeping for the residential amenity in the Southside Conservation area. There was a muddle with the dates by the planning department. The last date for objecting was the day before the planning list was sent out. Numerous complaints have been made, and objections lodged retrospectively.

8. Environmental matters

Southside walkabout – report from Hilary McDowell

A walkabout of the Southside area with Steven Cuthill, Transport and Environmental manager for the South East locality took place on 26th October 2017. In attendance – Hilary McDowell (SA), Philip McDowell (representing the SCC) and James Gilmour (representing residents in East Parkside).

For several years we have had a walk through our area with council staff and councillors in the autumn, looking at road defects and community safety issues. The SA office bearers had agreed that this year we should ask for council staff to come to look with us at the problems of graffiti, flyposting and see what members of the SA and others consider amounts to general neglect of the area.

We started on the corner of Bernard Terrace and walked south to Salisbury Place and north as far as Nicolson Square, taking in as much as we could in 2¼ hours. Streets visited included Montague Street, East and West Preston Street, Causewayside / Buccleuch Street, St Leonard's Street and the main corridor of Newington Road to Nicolson Street. As we walked we also removed many out of date HMO and road traffic notices, flyposting both left from the festival as well as that which has appeared since the start of the new university term and also many of the stickers which deface all the street furniture. Steven was left in no doubt of our frustration at the state of our streets. Even as we removed stickers we could see the sticky substance left that will get covered in dirt, leaving evidence of what has been removed. There was plenty of flyposting advertising events in various clubs. Steven photographed this and has promised to pursue this with the clubs.

Businesses are also flyposting on street bins etc and again we are hoping that these companies will be receiving communications from the council to deter them. So much of the flyposting is of events long since gone. We showed Steven one of the notices marking the route of the baton for the 2014 Commonwealth Games still clearly in place and impossible for us to remove. There are several more of these in our area. The promoters don't remove and neither does the council. It would appear that unless members of the public remove all such flyposting it is going to stay. We were told that this is a matter for the council planning department to tackle but they claim not to have the resources to do so. We know that the council could take

extra powers which would enable them to stamp down very hard on all offenders but they seem unwilling to do so. The Unight scheme set up by the night clubs supposedly to deal with flyposting by acts booked into their clubs isn't working. We have been told that it is being revived but given no contact details. The council contract to deal with flyposting during the festival with 'Out of Hand' isn't working in our interest either. They didn't tackle flyposting effectively in this area as far as we were concerned.

We made sure that Steven could see that if the council staff removed old notices and tie wraps when they were out putting up new ones and if the regulations which require production of the notice about HMO advertising before a licence is granted were applied then many of these problems would go. We asked for the lamp posts, bollards and bins to be painted and treated with a coating to stop these things sticking to them. We know this is possible. Steven said that if such a coating were applied then it would make it difficult to paint the structure in future. As it would appear to us that none of these structures have been repainted in decades, this doesn't seem to be something to consider now. We were told that there used to be a contract between the council and the utility companies for maintenance of their boxes to deal with graffiti and flyposting. This contract has apparently lapsed. It would appear to us that now nobody is doing anything. I hope that Steven will chase this up as he will have contact details and powers that are not available to us. This also is the case when it comes to dealing with graffiti on private property. The council can trace absentee landlords and require work to be done on a property. Perhaps painting a door can be done and a charge put against the property. As many will have HMO licenses then there is requirement for the property to be in good repair. We were taken by James Gilmour to see graffiti on the walls of a council owned carpark. He reported this graffiti many months ago. It apparently promotes drug taking. No reply from any council staff to his requests so far.

Steven took many notes and we hope that the multitude of abandoned road signs we encountered will be removed very soon. We also looked at the problem of oversized A boards and the lack of display of permits for tables and chairs. Steven is aware that the register on the council website of these permits is very out of date. We also pointed out how many A boards are on the street, some shops having as many as 5.

At the end we spoke about the opportunity to make a big difference to the general appearance of the main corridor as part of the resurfacing of the road due at the start of the New Year. Many defects are due to be fixed and improvements are planned as part of this. If this were linked with a 'Deep Clean' of the street during which graffiti on ALL property were to be painted out, lamp posts, bollards, utility boxes and waste bins repainted, extraneous clutter such as stanchions for waste bins (which are no longer used) and redundant Royal Mail pouch boxes removed then the streetscape would look cared for and it might be possible for locals to work with the council staff to keep it to a higher standard.

9. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Dickie had attended her first budget meeting and said that it had been stark. She mentioned the ongoing problems with ASB at Nicolson Square, saying that there had been 41 calls to the police recently. She has visited all the businesses in the Square to get their views. An innovative approach is required, and there have been meetings with local residents and businesses, the police, and the charity *streetwork* Edinburgh to try and improve matters. <http://www.streetwork.org.uk/> She referred to the serious problems at Carnegie Court; a residents' group has been set up, and support has been given in various forms, including improved lighting.

10. Any other business

10.1 Jan Fraser said that road safety would be greatly improved if right turn filters were added to the traffic lights at the crossroads of South Clerk Street with Bernard Terrace and Hope Park Terrace. There have been accidents there, and the Association will ask Steven Blacklaw if filters for west-east and east-west traffic could be added when replacement traffic signals are installed as part of the highway improvements and resurfacing in the New Year. A request was put in after the meeting.

10.2 Dora Lola-Luz said that she was having the utmost difficulty in persuading Unite to switch off the external lights to the rear of their new building (the Old Printworks) on Bernard Terrace. The lights are on 24 hours a day and are causing light pollution.

10.3 Moira Gibson referred to the recent e-mail from Professor Charlie Jeffery, Senior Vice Principal, University of Edinburgh, in which he wrote as follows

“We are changing the way we share news about our work and activities in the city and communities in which we’re based. We’d like to invite you to subscribe to our new ‘Local’ news channels so you can keep in touch with what’s going on.

[Edinburgh Local](#) is a new part of our University website which brings together all the information you might need to learn more about us, especially if you live or work locally. You’ll be able to find out about the facilities, activities and opportunities we provide for individuals and community groups. From local news stories and community projects, to our work in schools and student volunteering, our aim is to keep you to date with what we’re getting up to in the city, as well as highlighting the ways you can get involved.

We’d like to invite you to be part of our community by:

- **Looking at the Local section of our website** which you can access through the new Local tab at the top of the University home page;
- **Subscribing to our Local newsletter** - we’ll keep you up to date with the University’s most interesting and meaningful stories about local activities, projects and events happening in your city. [Subscribe here](#)
- **Forwarding this email to friends, family and colleagues** - we’d love you to share this email with your contacts and networks, so we can reach as many local people and organisations as possible;
- **Getting in touch** - you can contact us with queries, stories or just to tell us about yourself: we’d love to hear from you. Email local@ed.ac.uk or find us on [Facebook](#) and twitter [@EdUniLocal](#)

We’re also pleased to announce a new **Community Grants Scheme** that will fund community organisations to develop projects, community activities and sustainable local action which involves and benefits local people. We’re accepting applications now so please forward this email to anyone who might be interested in this opportunity. Information about the Scheme and how to apply is on our website, and will be in the first edition of our local newsletter. [Subscribe here.](#)

We will continue to be the University not only of the city and in the city, but for the city and our communities. You can find out more about our commitment to being a good neighbour in Edinburgh and the wider region by downloading our [Community Engagement Strategy](#). “

10.4 Hilary McDowell asked about the Roads Project award from 2016 in which funds were allocated to improve the pavement between Surgeons’ Hall and Lidl’s. No work has been done. There has been no information about when any vote on those projects put forward on 31/12/16 might happen. This has always happened in the spring. We don’t know if we

should be putting forward projects for next year. The closing date has always been 31st December and we were told several years ago that no reminders would be sent in future years. The Council has not said if there are funds for the 2017 project. Enquiries to be made.

Afternote: the reply from Sarah Burns is as follows: - We have committed to carrying out a selection process for the 17/18 proposed projects before the end of the calendar year and are in the process of arranging some drop in voting events and an online survey to allow residents to choose the projects. We will issue more information about this as soon as possible. With regards to proposals for next financial year, in light of this selection process being much later than normal for this financial year, it would make sense to push the date for nomination of projects for next year back, so there is no pressure to submit projects by 31 December 2017. I'll discuss further with colleagues and issue a communication through the Neighbourhood Partnership members updating on where we are with all the NEP projects for South Central.

11. Date of next meeting

The Christmas Carol Service and party will be held on Tuesday 5 December in St Patrick Square Garden, at 6pm, and afterwards in the hall at the Community Centre. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday 9 January 2018 in the Community Centre.