

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 7pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

Minutes

Present: Colin Christison (Chair), Jo Scott (Vice Chair), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Jan Fraser, Hilary McDowell, Bob Hodgart, Maggie Bagan, Isobel Leckie, Tom Bonallo, Ethel Murray, May Linton, Carol McHugh, Kenny McLeod, Fran Gifford, Dora Lola-Luz.

Also Present: Cllr Rose; PC Neil Mackay; Kate Campbell, Parliamentary Assistant to Tommy Sheppard MP.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed everyone back from the Christmas break and wished them a Happy New Year. Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Carter, Philip McDowell.

2. Police Report

PC Neil Mackay reported that housebreakings locally were down 30% on the same time last year. A dedicated unit of four officers is now assigned to this area of work and is proving effective, though there has been a spate of bike thefts for which a teenager has been charged. In December there was an assault and robbery on four students: two suspects are under curfew awaiting trial. In January, there was an attempted robbery on Nicolson Street. Anyone with information should ring 101, as usual, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

There has been a concerted effort to enforce the 20mph speed limit, with checks on local roads using a speed gun. The public can ask for checks if they feel there's a problem on a particular road.

Currently, there is a drive to tackle substance abuse. Anti-social behaviour at Hunter Square is being tackled sensitively, in order to avoid the issue of displacing it elsewhere.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 1 November 2016, and matters arising

Bob Hodgart wished to record an amendment to the Minutes of 1 November, Item 10, final paragraph which refers to the proposed TRO at the Causey. The reference to shared spaces should

read: “. . . tried and tested ways of addressing problems, with 2m people in the Netherlands using shared spaces of a particular type, ie the Dutch ‘woonerf’, called ‘Homezones’ in the UK.”

Proposer: Hilary McDowell; Second: Tom Bonallo.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair’s Report

4.1 The Southside Christmas Event was again a great success. Turnout at the Square was slightly down due to heavy rain, but there was an excellent attendance at the community party. An official vote of thanks was given to Cllr Perry, Rev Frazer, all the helpers, and to Scott Wilkins for setting up the PA system. Funding for next year’s lights is uncertain, particularly because of Council stringencies, so approaching an external body, such as G1 Group, may be considered for sponsorship of the lights. Even if that is forthcoming, the Council still arranges the power supply and their response to simple requests was totally unreliable. It was suggested that a small working group convene in the spring to set the ball rolling.

4.1 The future of the Southside Surgery was discussed. The University was thanked for proposing MacKenzie House as a temporary premises option for the NHS to consider, with Homebase considered the best long term option. Members were asked to write to local representatives and the NHS to lobby for Homebase as a permanent solution. All those who had been involved so far were thanked, including Fran Gifford, the Carters, Colin Christison, the Southside Community Council and local politicians of all parties who had been supportive.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Hilary reported a total of £1,102.80 in the bank, with £44.52 in petty cash. Banking is now being done online, and signatories are Colin, Jan and Hilary.

6. Planning & Licensing matters

6.1 PA 16/05711/FUL - Create new extension to form 5 new bedrooms, 4 with en-suite. at 43 - 45 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5AA; objection lodged.

6.2 PA/16/05952/FUL - existing class 1 shop use to be changed to class 3 for cafe, snack bar and takeaway use at 95 - 97 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9BY; the Southside Association has objected.

6.3 A retrospective application has been lodged for installation of a cash machine at 73 South Clerk Street. Permission was refused in 2014 for a machine installation at No 75, but 73 and 75 are linked buildings.

6.4 A question was asked of Cllr Rose as to why retrospective planning applications are granted rather than automatically refused for flouting due process. Cllr Rose replied that there is no sanction to discourage this practice, other than the risk of refusal.

7. Environmental matters

7.1 We continue to campaign for the removal of railings at the Nicolson St/West Richmond St/ West Nicolson Street junction. This would make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road

diagonally, and also help cyclists who can get trapped between vehicles and railings. The time and cost to achieve this would be minimal.

- 7.2 The promised dropped kerb onto Viewcraig Gardens from the cycle path that runs downhill from Brown Street is overdue. Supported by SCC and cost is minimal.
- 7.3 We request the installation of a zebra crossing on Bernard Terrace at the Spittalfield Street end, by the Nelson Hall to replace the pavement 'bulge'. This request is the top priority identified by the SCC.
- 7.4 We request that Councillors ask for a major repair of Newington Road between East Preston Street and East Newington Place to be prioritised in the new financial year.
- 7.5 Noisy manhole covers and unsecured metal plates on Nicolson Street and Buccleuch Street will be fixed by Scottish Water in the next few days. Kate Campbell offered help in chasing this up, if required.
- 7.6 The Caithness stone for the pavement opposite Festival Theatre is available, but the Council is examining engineering solutions for properties with basements.
- 7.7 An application for a rising bollard in George Square has been refused on the basis of unnecessary street clutter. Why is this DES 8 policy not applied to reduce pavement clutter such as A-boards and bins on pavements?

8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

- 8.1 Cllr Rose is pursuing the proposal for trees in Lutton Place, provided by developer.
- 8.2 Members are invited to respond to the City Vision 2050 consultation <https://edinburgh2050.dialogue-app.com/> and offer their views on what the future of the city should be in order to make life better for citizens, businesses and visitors. There are also public meetings being held around the city (list on the website at <http://edinburgh.org/2050-edinburgh-city-vision/>)
- 8.3 Despite the 60+-point plan, problems with bins and clearing waste continue. The Christmas tree disposal did not go as planned. Best for members to contact Councillors direct about any issues.
- 8.4 Approximately 1600 jobs at the Council have gone which represents a loss of skills and experience but also an opportunity to reshape delivery of services and create a more efficient way of working.
- 8.5 The Southside Placemaking consultation is ongoing. Many thanks to everyone who has taken part and responded. The main concerns emerging from the process are broken and cluttered pavements, bins and litter, empty shops giving a rundown appearance, and maintenance of green spaces.

9. Any other business - none

10. Date of next meeting

7 February 2017 at 7pm.