

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, Fran Gifford, Bob Hodgart, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Dora Lola-Luz, Hilary McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, and Jo Scott; Councillor Steve Burgess, and PC Brian Levy.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. Apologies for absence were received from Philip McDowell, Maggie Peatfield, and Colin Symes.

2. Police Report

PC Levy said that a number of officers from the Southside had been redeployed to the City Centre over the busy Festive period. The remaining officers were kept busy targeting youth crimes of thefts of pedal cycles and other items, and vandalism. There have been incidents where individuals have been raising tensions in the area by sending letters and spreading rumours. There was a reminder that people should check that their sheds and outhouses are securely locked. He has been monitoring the spread of graffiti in the area.

Members raised the issue of drivers making illegal right turns when travelling north into Lutton Place, Montague Street, and West Richmond Street. Drivers leaving Lutton Place to turn left onto South Clerk Street frequently drive through the pedestrian crossing when the lights are at red. PC Levy said that such incidents should be reported to the police on their '101' phone line, or to the community officers at St Leonard's Police Station. He has issued penalty notices to motorists using the bus lane at Marshall Street. The subject of vehicles parking on pavements was discussed and he agreed to look at some local trouble spots. There is a bill under consideration in the Scottish Parliament which will make this practice illegal.

Police Scotland invites members of the public to complete this survey –

In relation to the 'Your View Counts' survey which has been live since August 2017 via the Survey Monkey link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CXH85XJ>, there were specific themes identified for

target audiences each month. This month's theme is '**Localism and Engagement**' with the target audience being Local Communities and Partners.

The Q2 results for E Division showed that 591 people in Edinburgh completed the survey during this period and they highlighted the following as top priorities for the area (full report attached)-

1. Homes Being Broken Into
2. Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Road Safety
4. Theft of Property
5. Violent Crime

3. Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 2017, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Jan Fraser and seconded by Hilary McDowell.

Item 10.4 (Roads Project from 2016) –

Derek Roden had provided Hilary with an update on the roads projects already chosen. He told me that the re-slabbing on Nicolson Street outside Lidl is due to happen in March and the Caithness stone slabs just north of the Royal College of Surgeons is to be tied in with the work on the main corridor. The new pedestrian crossing will involve kerbs, poles, tactile slabs etc so that will be done first and then Caithness stone slabs put down after that is all done, probably in April or May. We don't know how close they will really go to the shop fronts. The businesses will probably be asked to contribute to cost where it is on non-adopted land. Thinner slabs will be used close to cellars to reduce the weight. The Waste Dept will be asked to remove bins from the kerbside, and to look at the proliferation of A-Boards.

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 Christmas Event – once again we had an excellent turnout from locals, and the event ran smoothly. Many thanks to everyone who made donations (including the Southside Community Council which donated £100, the Community Centre which contributed in kind, pizza outlets, and other businesses); and to Colin Symes, Cllr Dickie, Alex Arthur, Scott Wilkins, and the members who prepared the buffet and set up the hall. And a big thank you to the pupils and their teacher Simon from Preston Street Primary School, as well as to the University of Edinburgh's Music Society's band and choir for their musicianship. Some aspects of the event are included in a short video to be found on the website.
- 4.2 Dan Rous, the Development Manager of the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, has asked the SA to consider nominating a member to join a Short Life Development Group which will meet on occasion to look at plans and see how they work for existing and potential users of the Centre. They have plans to partially redevelop the Greyfriars Charteris Centre to enable better access, better facilities, and upgraded utilities. Jan Fraser and Colin Christison said that they would ask for more details.
- 4.3 Sarah Burns, the South East Locality's Manager, has issued an invitation to attend an event on Thursday 25 January to have a conversation with residents, businesses and partners about how the Council can work with everyone to improve Nicolson Square. Jo Scott agreed to represent the SA.

5. Treasurer's Report

Hilary McDowell said that the bank balance was £800.61 with £43.89 cash in hand.

6. Planning & Licensing matters

- 6.1 The SA had submitted some comments to the Council on its consultation on updating its Licensing Policy. (Item 5.1.2 in November 2107 minutes).
- 6.2 Planning Applications in respect of an ATM at 136 Nicolson Street had been refused and enforced.
- 6.3 There are 8 objections to the ADV part of the retrospective application for the cash machine at 80 Newington Road but currently none for the 17/05655/FUL one. The SA will object.
- 6.4 The pub/restaurant Diablo Loco (previously Clerk's Bar) on South Clerk Street has lots of orange lighting and displays for which there is no planning consent. It was agreed to write to planning enforcement.
- 6.5 Not in our area but of interest is the decision about redesign of Picardy Place. One engineer told a member at the drop-in event that there is a plan to reduce the number of buses going along Princes St and this will mean that many passengers will be expected to change from the bus to the tram at Picardy Place. This will become a major interchange. The Transport Committee will discuss this on 25 January, and it is understood that there are many concerns from the public and active travel organisations about the establishment of a 'gyratory' system, and it is hoped that a new public plaza will be created instead.

7. Environmental matters

- 7.1 Andrew Gallacher, from the South East Locality has provided an update on the selection of the **Neighbourhood Environment Programme** (NEP) roads proposals for the 17/18 financial year. Proposals for this fund were sought from local people and community groups and a Participatory Budgeting process will be used to select the successful projects. Only residents in the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership area are eligible to participate. The survey will remain open for participation until midnight 26 January 2018. Three pop-up events in local venues in the area are being planned for January. The only project in the area is for a zebra crossing at Bernard Terrace, near the Nelson Hall, and great efforts were under way from groups and the local school to encourage residents to vote for this project. It's the only one out of all the submissions which is aimed at potentially saving lives.

Please see the links below

<https://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/about/south-centra%C2%A3-decides/>

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8FCG2MY>

- 7.2 David Hunter of Living Streets Edinburgh sent this e-mail in December -

"As you may know, Living Streets Edinburgh Group has called on the Council to carry out a fundamental review of 'A-Board' policy - and, crucially, enforcement - in the city. A-Boards are increasingly a hazard to many disabled people on pavements and often obstruct all pedestrians, especially on busy, narrow pavements which are all too common in the city. This

topic is always raised as a major issue at our public events; you can see more about our position at this link:

<http://www.livingstreetsedinburgh.org.uk/common-issues/living-streets-edinburgh-campaigns-for-end-to-a-board-clutter/>

We were therefore pleased that the Council agreed to carry out this review back in March this year. We now understand that the Council recognises that something must be done, and may be minded to put in place a complete ban on A-boards, as perhaps the simplest, fairest and most effective solution to controlling this type of street clutter.

We are now contacting community councils in areas where we think A-Boards are a particular problem. We would like to ask you to contact your local councillors to tell them if you support an outright ban on A-board - or have any other ideas on how to control them effectively. You may also want to raise the issue with Cllr Lesley Macinnes, Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee. Please also forward this message on to any other local organisations or neighbouring community councils which you think may be interested in supporting this action."

- 7.3 Following on from the success of the mural at Gifford Park, we have identified sites for two possible new murals, after having ascertained from the artist Kate George that she was willing to work with us again.
- 7.3.1 The SA submitted a grant application to the University of Edinburgh's Local Small Grants Scheme for funding to create a mural at Gibb's Entry.
- 7.3.2 The SA submitted a grant application to the City of Edinburgh's Local Events Fund for funding to create a mural at Haddon's Court, just along Nicolson Street from Gibb's Entry.
- 7.4 As mentioned in the November minutes at 4.2, the Council has announced that it proposes to promote a Traffic Order which will amend the various restrictions at West Crosscauseway, Chapel Street. Quarry close, and Buccleuch Street. These proposals will be formally advertised in mid-January. An exhibition will be held at Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church on 20 and 23 January.
- 7.5 Hilary McDowell reported on the following items -

There was a considerable build-up of leaves on the Meadows by the tennis courts against the privet hedge. This was so deep that the wooden benches were buried. I was very worried as the leaves were very dry and a discarded cigarette butt would set the whole lot alight. This was reported as an urgent matter to senior staff at the Parks Department but before any action was taken to clear the leaves a fire did take place and a length of hedge and a park bench were badly burnt. (This had also happened about 15 years ago and the hedge took many years to recover.) We would ask that the gap in the hedge is replanted quickly and that in future that leaves are cleared much earlier in the season to avoid this happening again.

New equipment for the toddlers' playground next to the tennis courts has been ordered.

There is an ongoing problem with pallets used to make deliveries to various businesses in the area being left outside on the pavements. The Council's Waste Dept has been asked to collect and also to ensure the businesses know this isn't acceptable.

The start date for the major resurfacing project on the Newington Road to High Street has been put back to March 2018. More work is to be included. They hope to be able to put in a new crossing for pedestrians where South College Street meets South Bridge. We have also been asked if we would like red heart shaped hoops for cycles to be installed instead of rather boring not very obvious black hoops. Members had mixed preferences about colours.

The pavements and carriageways are suffering from lack of permanent repairs. Temporary fixes are only lasting a few days in some places.

8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Councillor Burgess had participated fully in the various discussions. He drew attention to the huge difficulties facing the Council after the funding cuts imposed over the last few years and the resultant loss of staff, and the quality of service and response times. He was shortly to have a local walkabout with Gareth Barwell (Head of Place Management in the Council) and would endeavour to look at some of the issues raised during the meeting.

He said that the lease to Holyrood Distillery for the former Engine Shed was in the process of being signed.

The Council had made an improved offer to the Community Centre's Management committee so that janitorial cover will be maintained during the week without necessitating periods of closure during the day; the cost of Saturday mornings' cover will be funded by the committee. He said that the Nelson Hall lease had not yet been signed by Scoosh.

9. Any other business

None.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6 February at 7pm.