

The Southside Association

117 Nicolson Street

Edinburgh

EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

Members' Meeting

Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 7pm

Room 1, Southside Community Centre

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, May Linton, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Maggie Peatfield, and Jo Scott; Sgt David Cuthbert and Cllr Cameron Rose.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Moira Gibson, Dora Lola-Luz, and Colin Symes.

2. Police Report

Sgt Cuthbert reported that normal police activity continued in May, particularly in and around Nicolson Square. Various options were under consideration to help alleviate the problems of ASB and drug-related issues, including the possibility of exclusion zones, and ASB orders. Daily patrols are made. A project by some UoE students taking place on 14-15 June will assess the difficulties and perhaps be able to offer some remedies. He reported on issues around Pleasance including drugs and an assault and robbery. A window at the 10 Hill Place Hotel had been smashed. However, the problems caused by gangs of youths in the area, and in the Meadows, had lessened significantly. There had been two incidents at the Mosque and an attempted robbery using a stun-gun at the Sainsbury's Local in Nicolson Street; the gun had been retrieved. He said that he had positive reports about the Meadows Festival, where the police had been present to mark bicycles and offer general community safety advice. Vehicle speed checks were still being made, and a football team initiative with children had started. The police were prepared for the usual busy period in the summer.

Some matters were raised; including the use of telephone boxes the exteriors of which are covered in adverts making it difficult to see the drug-taking happening within; and the cameras at Nicolson Square, which are not monitored, although they record as they swivel around. An upgrade of these CCTV cameras is being considered.

Cllr Rose said that Sarah Burns, the Manager of the South East Locality, was continuing the series of meetings mentioned in the May minutes, and that steady progress was being made. The police were putting a lot of work into finding solutions. The problems which had existed for many years

could be solved by some hard measures balanced with effective support. Streetwork were playing an important role. <http://www.streetwork.org.uk/>

3. Minutes of meeting held on 1 May 2018, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Jan Fraser and seconded by Margaret Bagan.

- 3.1 *Item 6.2* – (Davie Street Church, FUL) Objection lodged and acknowledged.
- 3.2 *Item 6.3* – (PH at 74 S Clerk St, ADV and LBC) Objection lodged and acknowledged.
- 3.3 *Item 6.4* – (Licensing Provision workshop) Hilary McDowell attended a workshop set up by the licensing board to consult about overprovision of liquor licenses. The overwhelming opinion of the members of the public and CCs is that Edinburgh has far too much provision and that the Board should have the powers and will to refuse; and so the new policy should reflect this. Compelling evidence was heard from NHS staff as well as CC members but there was strong pressure from the licensing trade to allow unlimited expansion of supply. Jo Scott gave evidence at a hearing on this matter and was backed up by other speakers.
- 3.4 *Items 7.1 and 7.2* – (Nicolson Square): mentioned above. The Spring Clean had been busy and successful and a Friends of the Square Group set up.
- 3.5 *Item 9.3* – (Meeting at Central Hall) this had taken place on 29 May, not 27, and Bob Hodgart reported that during a very well-attended meeting efforts had been made to form an alliance between various groups about how future building developments in the city are considered, particularly their appropriateness and sensitivity.

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 Progress of murals. Although we had been assured that one planning application (FUL) was enough, a month after it had been submitted we were told that a listed buildings one also had to be submitted. This is 18/02301/LBC. Funding is now all in place and it is hoped that work will start at the beginning of July. The artist Kate George has a provisional timescale; work should take two weeks, painting every day, and it may be necessary to complete the work on the ceilings slightly later.
- 4.2 Spotlight Cinema – the refurbishment is expected to be resumed in a few weeks.

5. Treasurer's Report

Hilary McDowell presented the accounts for 2017-18, which had still been in preparation at the time of the AGM. OSCR had acknowledged receipt of these annual accounts and reports, and they were now on their website.

Bank balance was £10,075.51 (£9450 of which was held in reserve for the murals) and petty cash amounted to £39.97.

Current renewals for membership stood at 13, with a number of outstanding subscriptions.

6. Planning & Licensing matters

- 6.1 18/01818/LBC – Sign made up of a purple solid pans with white and blue internally lit illuminated lettering at 43-43A South Clerk Street, EH9 9NZ: objection on grounds of inappropriateness of scale and style for a 'B' listed building lodged and acknowledged. The decision was a refusal as “the works will have a detrimental impact on the character of the listed building and is not justified; and the work will not preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area.”
- 6.2 18/01947/FUL – Alterations to provide wheelchair access to the halls, infill link building, upgraded existing windows and main nave window cut down to street level at 138 Pleasance, EH8 9RR: representation of support made and acknowledged.
- 6.3 18/01092/LBC and 18/01099/FUL both at 7 Clerk Street, EH8 9JH (former Odeon Cinema) – new fire doors etc. No comment necessary.
- 6.4 58 South Clerk Street – planning application pending.

7. Environmental matters

- 7.1 The Council's Transport and Environment Committee agreed on a citywide ban on advertising boards and other temporary on-street advertising structures at its meeting on 17 May 2018. The Council is holding a drop-in event which will focus on sharing ideas for alternative forms of advertising and business support in general. This event is to be held on Tuesday 26 June at the Methodist Church in Nicolson Square, between 3pm and 7pm.
- 7.2 South East Locality Improvement Plan - Southside Corridor small area plan – meeting arranged for 12 June, with Hilary McDowell representing the SA. Members agreed that the following subjects be raised at the meeting -

A 'deep clean' of the main corridor including removal of all notices, stickers etc on poles etc;

A promise to sort out with the utility companies who is responsible for painting and cleaning the boxes now that the former council contract has lapsed;

Removal of graffiti and a change to HMO rules so no new permit or renewal unless buildings and doors are clean;

A list of current tables and chairs licences to be available on the council website and a requirement for these permits to be displayed;

Removal of 'dead' bikes;

Removal of all telephone boxes that don't have a working phone in them and that those staying shouldn't be completely covered in advertising so that drug dealing etc can take place unseen on our streets;

Removal of all commercial bins, including food waste and glass bins from the pavements. They should only be presented for collection at the expected time and taken inside straight after;

For planning enforcement to take much more timely action over unauthorised alterations to buildings;

Ask shop-keepers to keep pavements clean and tidy.

8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Rose had commented on earlier business but went on to mention the following subjects:

The firm carrying out the resurfacing of the section of the A7 (Nicolson Street etc corridor) is Tarmac – they had resurfaced East Preston Street a couple of years ago and had done a brilliant job, with excellent liaison with householders. The A7 work is approximately on schedule and there have been few complaints.

The development of the City's Localities Model for more efficient and cost-effective provision of services continues; the South East Locality has held two meetings so far. Meetings are held in the City Chambers, are open to the public, and are webcast. Sub-groups have been formed, and part of their responsibilities is to allocate funding at ward level.

See http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20017/our_main_offices/191/south_east_locality

And

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20247/edinburgh_by_numbers/1393/locality_and_ward_data_profiles

Cllr Rose asked for views about the current efficiency of the refuse and recycling collection service; members thought that there had been some improvement, but one or two areas are being neglected.

9. Any other business

9.1 It was reported that a motor bike has been parked on the pavement on Salisbury Road for several months, causing an obstruction to people using walking frames. *Afternote* – it was removed on 7 June.

9.2 The Council is consulting its Regulatory Committees about the use of webcams. The Convenor of the Licensing Board is interested to know if members of the SA feel it would be helpful to use the webcam at the public sessions of the Licensing Regulatory Committee's meetings. Members felt this would be a good step to take. It is necessary for some parts of their meetings to be held in private.

9.3 The question of the Nelson Hall continuing to be open for community groups was raised. It was understood that a lease between SCOOSH and the council had still not been signed.

9.4 The McColl's shop on Nicolson Street is to close.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11 September. This is a week later than usual to allow for the centre to be returned to normal after its use as a Fringe venue.