

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

www.southsideassociation.co.uk
info@southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Tom Bonallo, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, Fran Gifford, Bob Hodgart, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Dora Lola-Luz, Nino Lola-Luz, Hilary McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Maggie Peatfield, and Jo Scott; and Cllr Alison Dickie, PC Paul Gunderson, and PC Euan Mackay.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Maggie Bagan and Philip McDowell.

2. Police Report

PC Gunderson reported as follows:-ongoing attempts to resolve the problems in Nicolson Square with various agencies. Anti-social behaviour by a gang of youths around this area, as well as Bristo Square and the Meadows, was still occurring. He mentioned some recent arrests which had been made for various crimes and breaches of bail. Police Scotland had participated in an Open Day at the Mosque in February. They'd also conducted a week-long initiative in the Dumbiedykes area to try to combat ASB, street drinking, shoplifting, and drug issues etc.

Maggie Peatfield thanked the police for their help with security matters in Hill Place.

3. Guest speakers: Dan Rous, Development Manager, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, and Kieran Gaffney, Architect.

Colin introduced Dan and Kieran. Dan listed the many groups which the Centre at 138 Pleasance now hosts. These now include the University of Edinburgh's campus Ministry, Edinburgh Social Enterprise, and Edinburgh Street Pastors. The unlisted buildings are 120 years old, and there are plans to work with what is already there, and add some new features. As is stated on the Centre's website- "Whilst we have some great facilities at the moment, we are aware that we're operating

in a suite of buildings that date back over 100 years. So we are working on plans to make them a more user friendly resource that truly “Connects Communities”.

We don't wish to change a great deal in the Centre. Our aim is to make the building look more open and less intimidating. This will involve fewer railings and solid wooden doors, and more glass. All tastefully designed to reflect the conservation area we are in and to celebrate what the building is about. We will have a better entrance and reception area, better accessibility around the Centre, increased facilities and upgraded utilities. We will also develop a Social Enterprise Incubator Hub for pre-start up support, a Village Square community Hub, and a brand new multi-faith Sanctuary space.”

Kieran gave a presentation about the proposals for the redevelopment of the premises. Work will be done in two phases; the first phase will involve lengthening the nave window to ground level, and the second phase will include a new front door, and a link between the church and the offices. A planning application will be submitted in late April or early May.

For more information please see <https://www.charteriscentre.com/>

After some questions and answers, members thanked Dan and Kieran for their presentation.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 6 February 2018, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Jan Fraser and seconded by Jo Scott.

4.1 *Item 3.1 (meeting about Nicolson Square)* – a report from Sarah Burns had been received and circulated by e-mail, and written copies were distributed at the meeting.

4.2 *Item 3.3 (Roads Proposal)* – please see below for result.

South Centra£ Decides - Results 2017/18

South Centra£ Decides is a participatory budgeting approach used by the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership. It is an opportunity for local people to have a say in how budgets are allocated in their local area.

The selection process for the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) proposals for the financial year 17/18 has concluded. **290** individuals took part in the process this year and will disburse £60,000 from the roads capital budget.

The 10 projects that were considered as part of the process have been ranked in the following order:

1) Bernard Terrace/Spittalfield Crescent	Estimate £25k-£30K	Scored 954 points
<i>Zebra Crossing</i>		
2) East Mayfield	Estimate £16.6K	Scored 763 points
<i>3x Footway Schemes</i>		
3) Balcarres Street	Estimate £15K	Scored 705 points
<i>Resurface Footway</i>		
4) Blackford Avenue	Estimate £50K	Scored 683 points
<i>Replace Street Trees</i>		
5) Braid Road	Estimate £12K	Scored 647 points

Resurface Northbound Carriageway Section

6) Relugas Gardens <i>Resurface Footway</i>	Estimate £3K	Scored 637 points
6) Falcon Road West <i>Resurface Carriageway Section</i>	Estimate £35K	Scored 637 points
7) West Mains Road (New trees and tree pits) <i>Replace Lost Trees</i>	Estimate £100K	Scored 607 points
8) Comiston Drive <i>Resurface Carriageway</i>	Estimate £100K	Scored 533 points
9) Midmar Drive @ Hermitage Drive (Carriageway) <i>Apply Anti-Skid Surfacing</i>	Estimate £12K	Scored 515 points

4.3 *Item 6.1 (PA for 2-3 St Patrick Square)* – the SA had objected to the plan to create a platform on the raised pavement. The PA had been granted (*before* the published closing date for representations) but after the applicant changed the plan from a platform to steps.

4.4 *Item 6.3 (possible flats at Brown Street)* – flats will be not built on the small garden. Cllr Rose enquired on our behalf and reported as follows - “However, the land to the south – between Brown Street and the Craggs and the path Braidwood Gate – is being considered for housing development. It belongs to the Housing Revenue Account and the proposal is to put 63 flats on it. The proposal is for Castlerock/Edinvar to buy the land from the Council and have the flats built for them and managed by them.”

4.5 *Item 6.4 (Royal College of Surgeons area)* – Maggie Peatfield said that she had met the RCoS’s property manager, and established that the College did not own the various premises described in the minutes; and the area will not be known as ‘The Surgeons’ Quarter’

5. Chair’s Report

5.1 Proposed new murals

5.1.1 Haddon’s Court – as reported at the February meeting we were awarded 70% of the funding from the Council’s Local Events Fund, and an application for the balance of £1340 was submitted to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership on 7 February. Decision should be soon, and then a planning application will be made.

5.1.2 Gibb’s Entry – also as reported at the February meeting, our application to the University of Edinburgh’s Community Grants scheme for funding had been unsuccessful. The University had been in touch and they have now decided to offer us the funding, subject to due diligence and acceptance of terms and conditions. Once these are finalised, a planning application will be submitted. We were delighted with this news, and to learn that our proposal had been highly ranked by the selection panel.

5.1.3 Kate George, the artist who created the Gifford Park mural, will attend the meeting on 3 April. Local residents and businesses in the immediate area of the two proposed murals will be invited, and be asked for their ideas for the content of the murals.

6. Treasurer’s Report

The bank balance remained the same as February.

7. Planning & Licensing matters

7.1 18/00044/EOPDEV 74 - 78 South Clerk Street

The planning enforcement enquiry stated that “The bar is revising their signage and going to submit an application for advertisement and listed building consent. The current illumination is unacceptable and unlikely to be given consent. In the meantime, while the signage is revised and an application submitted the signage will not be illuminated at night”. However the lights were still on.

7.2 It was noted with great concern that the Planning Department had suddenly started to publish online the addresses of people who had made representations about planning applications, and had included this information retrospectively. This was likely to contravene data protection regulations. Cllr Dickie said that she would investigate this matter.

8. Environmental matters

8.1 Carriageway resurfacing and traffic signal upgrades for the A7 corridor from South Bridge to Newington Road – the anticipated start date is 9 April. Work will start at Newington Road and will take about 12 weeks. It was noted that the bus stop for north-bound passengers opposite Montague Street will be removed.

- Renewing the traffic signal equipment at 3 junctions and 5 pedestrian crossings;
- A new pedestrian crossing (South College Street – Drummond Street);
- Minor footway improvements;
- Completing the public realm/Caithness slabs on South Bridge, south of Drummond Street;
- Additional cycle parking; &
- Reduce/upgrade street furniture.

There will be much evening work - into the early hours - and some daytime work, avoiding the rush hours. There will be a curfew on noisy work after 11pm, though workmen will be permitted to work into the small hours.

8.2 There had been discussion previously about asking for some modification to the exit from Lutton Place on to South Clerk Street to slow traffic turning left and to give them more time to take notice of the Pelican crossing just to the south. As a result of this request the officer is looking to modify the corner and investigate moving the crossing a little further south.

8.3 Clearing of snow – it was noted that snow was not cleared from crossings and junctions, creating hazards for pedestrians.

8.4 The water burst on Newington Road was eventually repaired after 10 days.

8.5 There are several wobbly paving stones on West Richmond Street which have been causing people to trip and fall.

8.6 On Sundays in Holyrood Park a section of the road is closed to traffic until 4pm in winter (and 6pm in summer). However it appeared that the road was being reopened as early as 3.15pm. The park authorities say that they have 15 gates to open, and they start work early, thereby not adhering to their own signage.

8.7 It was noted that the area around the recycling bins on Potterrow is usually in a state of great untidiness. Council staff said that the University was responsible for clearing up the area.

9. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Dickie outlined the many matters with which she is involved, including the Council's Budget, Air BnB, Carnegie Street, Nicolson Square, Briery Bauks, and other items.

10. Any other business

10.1 Bob Hodgart discussed the consultations on the proposals for the redevelopment of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children site, and the hope that there will be space for community use.

10.2 Jo Scott said that there will be a delay in moving all the services out of the Astley Ainsley Hospital until 2023.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3 April.