

# ***The Southside Association***

**117 Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9ER**

*Founded 1972*      *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

**www.southsideassociation.co.uk**

**Members' Meeting  
Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 7pm  
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

## ***Minutes***

**PRESENT:** Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Stephen Carter, Jan Fraser, May Linton, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Ethel Murray, Maggie Peatfield, and Jo Scott; Victoria Garner, PC Neil Mackay, and Cllr Cameron Rose.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Bob Hodgart, Isobel Leckie, Carol McHugh, Colin Symes, and Ola Uduku.

### **2. Police Report**

PC Neil Mackay gave his report, which covered August and September. A 15-year-old male was apprehended for recent robberies and attempted robberies, and he is now under curfew conditions. There had been assaults by youths in Clerk St and Rankeillor St. A 16-year-old male had attempted murder twice; once in Princes St and shortly afterwards in Cockburn St. DNA testing is being made on human bones recovered in the grounds of Pollock Halls. Preventative work on motor bike related crime had seen a 6% reduction in thefts. Calls relating to ASB by motor cycle riders had gone down by 54%. Thefts from motor vehicles had dropped after an individual who is suspected of 50 such thefts had been caught. There was a discussion about ASB in the Gibb's Entry Pend. It was thought that accommodation had been found for the individual who has been sleeping there.

After some questions and answers, members thanked Neil for his report.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 11 September 2018, and matters arising**

Agreed; proposed by Jo Scott and seconded by Ethel Murray.

3.1 *Item 4.3* (Haddon's Court meeting) – action note outlining proposed measures to tackle the problems there received from Sarah Burns.

3.2 *Item 6.2 - 18/03067/FUL* – proposal to change from long term residential lets to short term/holiday lets at 118 Nicolson Street. Objection lodged on grounds of loss of long-term residential occupancy – application refused.

- 3.3 *Item 6.5* – Licensing consultation 1 – comments submitted.
- 3.4 *Item 6.6* – Licensing consultation 2 – comments will be submitted this week.
- 3.5 *Item 8* - Following the meeting on 11 September, Cllr Burgess had sent the following update in response to questions asked then:

1. Pavements outside Lidl – Sarah Burns says SE locality were holding back on pavement improvements this until the A7 works were complete. Alan Dunlop met the contractor about this and a number of projects and is awaiting a start date for the works.
2. Missing notes from Southside Corridor small area action plan meeting in June – actions appropriate to the small area plan have been incorporated into the plan itself, rather than producing a separate note e.g. the forthcoming “deep clean” is in the plan.
3. Festival flyposting clean up - Steven Cuthill will meet with Out of Hand to feedback info gathered on recent walkabout with Hilary.
4. Nelson Hall – waiting for a response from Peter Watton Head of Estates.
5. A-board enforcement – will start from 5 November with City centre, with two officers carrying it out. Southside is likely to be high priority.
6. CEC consultation hub notices – Paula McVey, Strategy & Insight Manager responsible for consultation hub says she is investigating.
7. Liquor Licence application notices – response from Morag Leck, Principle Solicitor forwarded separately.
8. Planter outside Surgeons’ Hall – Cllr Rose is already progressing this and will contact Surgeons’ Hall.

- 3.6 *Item 9.2* (Nelson Hall) – Cllr Rose will follow up.

#### **4. Chair’s Report**

- 4.1 Christmas Event – CC updated members on the plans.
- 4.2 South Side Community Centre AGM, held on 29 September, attended by MB and CC. An increased number and variety of groups now use the centre. Programmes are available in the foyer. It is vitally important to strengthen and secure the future of the centre and all its activities, and the management committee is very keen to take on new members.
- 4.3 Nancy Jamieson, Planning Team Manager, East Local Development and Listed Buildings, City of Edinburgh Council, will attend the meeting on 6 November.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report**

Hilary said that the figures were the same as in September.

#### **6. Planning & Licensing matters**

- 6.1 18/07159/LBC – Erection of No.2 External ducts on rear elevation at 58 South Clerk St. EH8 9PS: objection lodged.

## 7. Environmental matters

- 7.1 **Southside Corridor deep clean** - 3 days of action on Thursday 25 – Saturday 27 October. This is one of the priorities identified under the Southside Corridor Small Area Plan. The Council will co-ordinate Council and partner services over Thursday and Friday to carry out a range of activities focussed in and around the Southside Corridor, culminating in a community day where there would be the opportunity for the community to get involved in supporting a clean-up and perhaps a community event on the Saturday in Nicolson Square Gardens. The newly established Friends group there may take the lead on the event on the Saturday. Southside Community Council will be involved.

Provisional plans by the Council for the 25/6 October include

- **Wash down Street Litter Bins** (Thurs/Fri) – Waste & Cleansing
- **Check and Clean Bus Stops** – CEC (JC Decaux)
- **Provide Clean-Up Kits and Briefing** (Saturday) – Waste & Cleansing
- **Wash down any grease/stains from identified footway areas** (Thurs/Fri/Saturday) – Waste & Cleansing
- **Graffiti Removal** (Thurs/Fri/Saturday) – Waste & Cleansing/Community Group
- **Remove Collected Litter/Waste** (Saturday) – Waste & Cleansing
- **Wash Down Communal Bins/Identify Repairs** (Thurs/Fri) – Waste & Cleansing
- **Wash Down Lampposts and remove stickers, cable ties, etc** (Thurs/Fri) – Locality Waste & Cleansing/Community Group
- **Fly-posting Removal** (Saturday) – Community Groups
- **Paint/Clean Street cabinets** (Utilities) – Scottish Power/Virgin Media/Openreach
- **Litter Removal** (Community Clean-Up/Saturday) – Community Group
- **Engage with Local Businesses** (Thurs/Fri/Sat) – Community Group/Environmental Wardens/Waste Compliance
- **Footway, Carriageway and Gully maintenance** – Locality Transport Team

### **Further suggestions by the SA**

Gully cleaning should be a high priority as they don't seem to cope when we have heavy rain. Roads Dept needs to go out to check their various signs are facing in the correct direction. There is one about bus lanes opposite the Queen's Hall which is at 90 degrees to how it should be. There are lots of blobs of paint on paving slabs etc which could be dealt with at the same time as pavement repair. Also, removal of any bollards, barriers etc found during the time.

Anti-graffiti surfaces to be put on some of the poles and posts, i.e. the lumpy stuff so that stickers won't stick, and if all the poles could be greased once the stickers etc were gone then nothing would stick!

Removal of redundant council notices.

Anti-graffiti cleaning to be done on private front doors and shop fronts – many of these are in a disgraceful state. If not, there won't be much of a difference.

Pends washed through with disinfectant on a regular basis.

The Utility Companies and the Council must sort out who is supposed to be maintaining utility boxes. If the contract has lapsed then it needs to be enforced that the utilities do proper cleaning and painting or they get fined.

All the bins which are missing lids must be replaced or repaired and all the bins put back in the correct sites. The stanchions on which bins were supposed to be locked which are now never used should be removed.

See if redundant Royal Mail pouch boxes can be removed.

Take away abandoned/dead bikes or at least label them for removal.

Note any the overhanging hedges/ trees which need cutting back and notify owners of the requirement for work on this.

## 7.2 Other environmental items by Hilary McDowell

### ***Flyposting***

On Thursday 4 October, Hilary MacDowell and Joan Carter (from the Southside Community Council) will form a Deputation to the Transport and Environment Committee as suggested by Cllr Burgess last month.

Written several times to Fife College about lot of flyposting about a course they were to be running at Summerhall. Took down some 40 fliers and posters stuck up with a yard of sticky tape. Course not even running! They apologised and said they would ask staff and students to remove but posters were still up on 1 October. Written to head of local environmental wardens. Also in contact with Summerhall, and the new general manager replied on first day in post. There is a clause in the contracts issued to groups hiring the venue which prohibits flyposting. This condition will be stressed very clearly in an effort to control the practice.

One of the larger local shops has been flyposting on large wooden boards. Some 20 of these removed by various people. Owner challenged but he continued.

Nightclubs aiming at new students are flyposting in the area again. The Unight scheme which was set up by the Council and the major clubs and venues which controlled fly-posting does not seem to be in existence any more.

### ***Murals and pends***

There has been one piece of graffiti on Haddon's Court pend which we cleaned off. The artist is making a minor repair to one small area which didn't clean properly and we will varnish over it. Pends still being used as toilets and for rough sleeping etc. Residents have been offered paint for back of shops. Meeting to improve the area attended by locals, councillors and staff, as mentioned above.

### ***Main road corridor***

Still some work to be done. Promise of the work on pavement voted for several years ago outside Lidl to be done soon. Blobs of paint on pavements elsewhere down much of the street seem to promise work on the long list of wobbly slabs sent in several months ago. New bike racks and heart shaped bike frames on lamp posts are in place and well used.

### ***Road Capital Programme for 2018-19***

Wrote to ask if it is continuing but no replies. Have suggested a phase for crossing Salisbury Road safely by Commonwealth Pool.

## 8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Rose discussed the following topics

- In response to reports of late-night noise from patrons leaving the Southsider PH, he would consult the Licensing Section. Two or three days before the serious assault in the early hours of 30 September he had asked for special attention to be paid to this street.
- Carnegie Court – one third of the dwellings are Council owned and the remainder are privately owned. There have been various problems there in recent times, and with the

formation of a residents' committee, various measures started, and a structural analysis, some progress is being made.

- Haddon's Court – several issues being tackled under the initiative mentioned at 3.1 (above), but the matter of parking problems being worsened by trade vehicles and refuse trucks is being looked at by senior Council staff.
- Bernard Terrace (east end) – a zebra crossing will be provided very soon, after a final safety audit. It is necessary for it to be sited as near St Leonard's Street as practicable, as if it placed too far along Bernard Terrace people won't use it, and cross the road at the 'desire line'. There was a possibility of a Puffin crossing there but that is a project which could take 3 or 4 years to arrange.
- Edinburgh Bargain Stores – complaints had been made about considerable fly-posting using hardboard, and Cllr Rose said that he would speak to the owner.
- He reported that the Causey project will now be considered by a Scottish Government reporter.
- He had visited the University of Edinburgh's Bayes Centre, next to the Informatics Forum on Potterrow. Please see <https://www.bayes.ed.ac.uk/> There are over 400 post-graduate researchers there, and there is liaison with local companies and the Council about many projects. He described some of the work being carried out there, and how important it is likely to be in the future.

## 9. Any other business

- 9.1 Maggie Peatfield mentioned that the recycling area at Potterrow was always in a dreadful state of disorder. CC will e-mail the U of E which owns the site.
- 9.2 She also mentioned that a car parking space in Hill Square, temporarily removed because of Fringe requirements, had not yet been re-instated. Cllr Rose to enquire.
- 9.3 Maggie Bagan asked about the continuing provision of public toilets in the Meadows, particularly the East Meadows. Cllr Rose said that the subject will be considered as part of the Budget setting process in February 2019.
- 9.4 Victoria Garner discussed her project, which is entitled '*Feel the city, Engage the city, Live the city*'. This is a participatory project that draws on the real experiences of the local communities within cities. The project aims to give a comprehensive overview of the essence of neighbourhoods. It does this in two ways. The first is a "facts about this neighbourhood" breakdown of neighbourhood indicators – i.e. - factors that people consider when moving to a new area – e.g. - self-sufficiency, transport links, houses, schools, shops and cafes, leisure and entertainment, community organisations and creative spaces etc. The second part explores the lived experiences of long-term and recently arrived residents. Participants from a variety of neighbourhoods within Edinburgh will be interviewed and encouraged to share their views, ideas and experiences of living in their neighbourhoods in terms of how they participate and interact within their spaces and the facilities available.

## 10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6 November.

**Future Dates** – Tuesdays – 4 Dec (6pm at St Patrick Square, and then in the hall), 8 Jan, 5 Feb, 5 Mar, 2 Apr, 7 May, 4 Jun.