

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 6.45pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, John Cullen, Cuchulainn Gent, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Dora Lola-Luz, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, and Jo Scott; Cllr Alison Dickie; PC Brian Leavy and PC Karen Neilson.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Jan Fraser, Fran Gifford, Bob Hodgart, Carol McHugh, Maggie Peatfield, and Stuart Tooley.

2. Police Report

PC Neilson and Leavy discussed numerous matters, mentioning the murder at Prestonfield, the sexual assaults in the grounds of the Royal Infirmary, youth disorder involving cannabis at St Thomas of Aquin's, and more locally, problems at the public toilets in Nicolson Square, rough sleepers in Marshall Street, the theft of pedal cycles from Blackwood Crescent (for which two males are waiting to be charged), and issues concerning public urination in East Adam Street. There has been an increase in foot and car patrols in anticipation of problems with ASB and street drinking. However, the joint approach with the Council has seen improvements around Nicolson Square. Domestic housebreaking had fallen by 30% in the past year, a fall of 60% for sheds and garages, and a fall of 16% in business break-ins. There was a reminder to keep premises securely locked. The police are keen for intelligence relating to any problems and potential problems, and are happy to be contacted by e-mail and telephone. A bigger picture can be built from the reporting of small items. There was a discussion about the recent fire in Holyrood Park, and on street drug-peddling. Regarding community policing it is hoped that a bigger police presence will be forthcoming, which acts as a deterrent.

The members thanked the officers for their attendance and for the opportunity to have a reciprocal dialogue.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 5 February 2019, and matters arising

It was noted that at 9.3 (James Gillespie's High School) extra classroom accommodation was being sought for all classes, not only Gaelic Medium, because of rising rolls. The SA asks our four

Councillors to acknowledge that capacity and rising rolls continue to be of concern to JGHS parents and feeder schools, and that the Councillors endorse the school's aims for adequate support and proper planning. Subject to this clarification the minutes were approved; proposed by Jo Scott and seconded by Maggie Bagan.

3.1 *Item 7* – three planters had been installed at West Crosscauseway.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 In its review of Locality Committees on 7 February 2019, the Council agreed to dissolve them on 1 April 2019, and at same time, also dissolve the Neighbourhood Partnerships. Here is an extract from the report:

1.1 To agree to implement option A – to dissolve the locality committees on 1 April 2019 and to concentrate resources on community engagement to the Edinburgh Partnership Community Planning Framework. 1.2 To formally dissolve Neighbourhood Partnerships from 1 April 2019 to allow for their successor Neighbourhood Networks. 1.3 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any such changes to the Council's governance documentation to implement these changes. 1.4 To note that officer support to community planning and community councils was being reviewed to explore how community engagement with the Council's decisions could be better supported.

See http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/59942/item_82_-_review_of_locality_committeespdf

4.2 Southside Conservation area extended

A group of Category 'A' listed buildings, with special architectural and historic importance are now part of Edinburgh's [South Side Conversation Area](#).

In a report by the City of Edinburgh Council, which was approved by the local authority's [Planning Committee](#) today (Wednesday, 27 February), The Royal Commonwealth Pool, the Scottish Widows building and the first phases of Pollock Halls were all described as having distinct character and significant value and were cited as good examples of their architectural styles.

The South Side Conservation Area boundary line will now be amended and follows consultation with local residents, businesses and other local institutions as well as city-wide amenity groups.

The South Side Conservation Area was originally designated in May 1975.

5. Treasurer's Report

Hilary McDowell said that funds remained the same as February.

6. Planning & Licensing matters

6.1 18/02433/FUL – change of use from Rugby Club with offices and gallery to Class 10 use with linked café etc at 188-192 Pleasance, EH8 9RT; application granted. The premises are now unoccupied.

- 6.2 PA 18/10468/FUL - Proposed change of use from 4 bedroom flat to 6-bedroom (maximum 9 persons) HMO flat at 2F2 22 West Preston Street Edinburgh EH8 9PZ: objection lodged on grounds of over-crowding and potential noise nuisance, but application granted.
- 6.3 Barrels outside the disused Mockingbird Public House - Jo Scott had asked Licensing about removing these, but it was not clear who was responsible for their removal.
- 6.4 Summerhall - the management is trying to arrange a meeting with residents who had objected to their recent withdrawn licensing application. It was suggested that a representative could be invited to attend a future SA meeting.

7. Environmental matters

- 7.1 As mentioned in the February minutes, we wrote to Cllr McVey of our concerns about the proliferation of fly-posting and graffiti all over the city. He replied on 27 February as follows: *“Many thanks for getting in touch and bringing this to my attention. I’ll follow up your email with the locality team and see what additional actions we can take to improve the situation. We’ve had some success in Leith Walk tackling similar issues when concentrated on Albert Street so I’ll ask Sarah (Burns) to liaise with the North East locality manager and see what more can be done.”*
- 7.2 Capital Roads Projects – e-mail from Alan Dunlop (Senior Transport Team Leader) - *“Apologies again for the continued delay in delivering the previously selected projects. We are in the process of confirming the programme of outstanding schemes and I will provide an update on timescales as soon as possible.”*
- 7.3 Hilary McDowell reported as follows

“Scottish Water replaced a toby cover on St Patrick Square within 48 hours. BT have started the paperwork to deal with a noisy manhole cover on South Bridge. Scottish Gas are digging up the road at Clerk Street near the junction with Rankeillor St. Unfortunate to have this happen to the beautiful new surface. Cable work to put in new fibres for 'Open Reach' continues throughout the area. So if you see lengths of blue rope sticking out of odd pipes, that is in preparation for pulling cables through ducts.

As all we have received has been a holding reply (7.2 above) to our questions about the various projects which won funding under the Capital Roads Projects for previous years; we want to know when the zebra crossing will be installed on Bernard Terrace and the pavement upgraded outside Lidl which was funded the previous year. We would also like to know if this scheme is still being funded and if our proposal for an adjustment to the traffic lights outside the Commonwealth Pool to provide a safe time for pedestrians to cross Salisbury Road has been accepted.

An example of flyposting by Balkanarama was given to the manager of Summerhall on 4 March. The venue has a clear policy in the terms for let that no flyposting should happen. The manager will warn the company. She would also welcome neighbours meeting with her to develop better relations with local residents. The front of the building is due to be cleared of the debris left by an 'art installation' later this week. A suggestion was made that if planters were installed then local people might well be happy to look after them. It is good to see several bike racks with covers now installed within the grounds of Summerhall so the

length of railings outside the building is now usually clear of bikes. Abandoned bikes have been cleared away.”

Consideration will be given to submitting questions under the Freedom of Information legislation.

Cllr Dickie offered to get information and answers to some of these, and other, outstanding issues.

8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Dickie had taken part during most of the meeting. She had been involved in the setting of the Council’s Budget for 2019-2020 which was very time-consuming and complex.

She went on to describe her continuing involvement in the efforts to improve life at Nicolson Square, Carnegie Court, and Haddon’s Court, as well as measures to help the vulnerable and further promotion of community engagement.

9. Any other business

9.1 A question was asked about the disappearance of the north-bound bus shelter at Nicolson Street. It is due to be replaced soon.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 2 April.

Future Dates – Tuesdays – 7 May (AGM), 4 Jun, 3 Sep, 1 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec.