

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

Tuesday 7 May 2019, at 7.10pm

Ordinary Meeting

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, Isobel Leckie, May Linton, Liz Logie, Dora Lola-Luz, Katerina Marinitsi, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Ethel Murray, Maggie Peatfield, and Stuart Tooley; Cllrs Alison Dickie and Ian Perry.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Carol McHugh, Tim Pogson, Jo Scott, and Colin Symes.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 2 April 2019, and matters arising

Approved; proposed by Hilary McDowell and seconded by Maggie Bagan.

2.1 *Item 3.3* – (Bus shelter at Nicolson Street northbound stop) – possibility of replacement shelter and additional stop still under consideration.

3. Planning, Licensing, & Environmental items

3.1 The Nicolson Square Improvement group met on 25 April, and Jo Scott had attended the meeting, which was called to discuss transport around the square. A representative from Lothian Buses was present, as well as Cllrs Dickie and Rose, and ten others. Various improvements were considered, and decisions to be made on the number of taxis permitted on the rank, as well as the rank's final position. The bus stop on the north side of the square is to be removed.

3.2 Two advertising trailers had been placed on Holyrood Park Road; following complaints, one had been removed on 7 May. The Council has new powers to remove these.

3.3.1 Two licensing applications had been made for Continental Markets on Nicolson and St Patrick Squares, without any dates being provided, although these annual licence applications don't have to be specific. It was agreed to object to these as it was considered

that the placement of over a dozen stalls on the two squares will be inappropriate for public spaces, and the likely parking problems caused by loading and unloading.

- 3.3.2 There was a discussion about a licensing application by CSM Live and Lidl, with Unique Events, to hold a nine-day Community Outreach event at the Fringe in a marquee on Deaconess Gardens. It was felt that the loss of green space during the Festival was not desirable, but the closing date for comments and objections had passed.
- 3.4 It was noted that rough sleepers were present in at least two stairwells in Pleasance, and the police have been informed.
- 3.5 The Friends of Nicolson Square had held a pruning and replanting session on 20 April following the award of a small grant to provide plants and shrubs.
- 3.6 Hilary McDowell provided the following report -

“I have submitted a number of Freedom of Information questions in my own name, rather than on behalf of the SA, to the council in an attempt to find out what if any action is being taken by council staff to control and remove the number of notices and flyposting in the city. I will report back to you what responses I get.

A trial of cleaning of street furniture started last week in St Patrick Square and also graffiti removal. This is prior to a bigger project to clean the main corridor through the area. I would encourage members to go and look at the results so far. The stickers etc have been removed but there are still dirty marks in many places left by the sticky residue and elsewhere the paint has apparently been stripped. There is also sticky tape left in places. It would seem to me that solvents need to be used to remove mess and much of the furniture needs to be repainted and treated with some coating to prevent stickers adhering in future. I believe such coatings are available. Also some high profile prosecutions of those who put up flyposting and stickers could make a big difference. This has worked in some other parts of the UK.

There are more three planters due to be placed on the roundabout at East Crosscauseway but delivery dates keep slipping.

Cllr Dickie has been asking questions on our behalf to try to get answers which have not otherwise been forthcoming. One piece of news which I believe will be welcomed by all of us is that as of 30 September, no cafes, restaurants etc will be permitted to keep food waste and glass bins permanently on the pavements outside their premises.

There will be wiring put over the mural in Haddon's Court to improve lighting.

Tables and chairs permits are apparently checked by the night time environmental warden. Not sure how as permits are not displayed on most businesses in our area, the tables and chairs aren't out overnight and it is impossible to search for tables and chairs licences via the council website. The link given to us earlier this year no longer works.”

4. Any other business

- 4.1 Spotlight cinema

The new Operations Manager, Mike Wiles, will attend the SA's meeting on 4 June to give an update on progress.

- 4.2 The first session of the Southside Newington Neighbourhood Network will take place on Monday 20 May at 6pm in the South Side Community Centre. CC will attend.
- 4.3 Liz Logie said that there was still no word about when the Council's Waste Depot in Cowan's Close was to be relocated, and the date had been pushed back by up to four years. The vehicles were polluting the street very near to a children's nursery.
- 4.4 Other items mentioned were the circulation of forged £20 banknotes in the area, with charity shops being targeted; potholes in Nicolson Square; trip hazards caused by wobbly paving slabs in the section of east Nicolson Street between Starbucks and BHF; and various holes in pavements hidden by safe yellow plastic covers.

5. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4 June 2019.

Future Dates – Tuesdays – 3 Sep, 1 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec