

The Southside Association

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

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

Minutes

PRESENT: Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Jan Fraser, May Linton, Dora Lola-Luz, John McCormick, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Maggie Peatfield, Jo Scott, and Colin Symes; Cllr Ian Perry.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Daniel Fisher, Carol McHugh, and Stuart Tooley.

2. Police Report

No officer available.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 1 October 2019, and matters arising

Approved; proposed by Hilary McDowell, and seconded by Jo Scott.

3.1 *Item 4.2 - (Southside Community Council) – Maggie Peatfield (the SA's representative) had attended the first meeting of the new SCC on 28 October and reported that office bearers had been appointed. Meetings will now take place on the second Tuesday of the month in the Nelson Hall. The SCC's website <http://www.sccedinburgh.org.uk/> has a feature called "What do you think", which contains a list of current consultations, including one on proposals to change the boundaries of the Niddrie and Braefoot NHS medical practices, and another on Edinburgh's Tourism Strategy 2030 (discussed at 9.3, below).*

3.2 *Item 10.1 – (Nicolson Street bus shelter) – the following information had been received from the Council via Cllr Dickie:*

"It was our intention to install a new shelter here of the kind referred to in the Southside Association notes as part of our previous renewal programme; we have, however, had to place this plan on hold for the foreseeable future. Due to the existence of cellars at the Mosque Kitchen Restaurant, the available depth underneath the footway at this location does not accommodate the foundations of this type of facility.

We are aware that this location is a pinch point for pedestrians and bus users due to high pedestrian footfall, high passenger patronage, and available footway width. We have received feedback from some bus users asking us not to install a new shelter as they believe the current situation is less stressful, crowded and allows improved accessibility.

It was our understanding that there is ongoing discussion with the community regarding the future public realm around Nicolson Square and this may, in the longer term, provide an opportunity to reposition the stop to a nearby location that can better balance accessibility with passenger refuge."

The Council also say that they are happy to revisit the topic given the restrictive nature and current limitations of the site.

- 3.3 *Item 10.2 – (29 Blackwood Crescent) – occasionally a Land Rover is parked in the garden of the flat. When the registration number was checked on the DVLA website it was found that it is not currently taxed. This was reported to Cllr Rose who is looking into the problems with the building. He said that he was not aware that the vehicle wasn't taxed but advised us that it is very complicated trying to get the building issues sorted out. He is working on it.*
- 3.4 *Item 10.3 – (traffic at Lutton Place) – the following feedback was received "issues with double parking and dangerous driving is a police matter. The bins may (or may not) be in the right place or put back where they should be. I'll get one of the inspectors to have a look and see if there anything we can do to improve positioning."*
- 3.5 *Items from September meeting: gullies at Dalkeith Road and corner of Sciennes are in urgent need of cleaning; the 'No Right Turn' sign into Montague St has been repositioned correctly but remains unlit, although the one outside the Queen's Hall has still not been repositioned.*

4. Chair's Report

Christmas Event – the various arrangements for the Carol Service and community get-together were discussed, with a reminder that it will take place an hour earlier than usual at 5pm on Tuesday 3 December at St Patrick Square, and afterwards in the community centre.

5. Treasurer's Report

Hilary McDowell reported that the bank balance stood at £1106.50. The bill for the annual public liability insurance had been received, and it was the same amount as 2018.

6. Planning & Licensing matters

- 6.1 19/01610/FUL - Proposed change of use from Class 3 cafe limited cooking to full Class 3 restaurant with steel flue to rear and new entrance door at 99 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9BY – withdrawn.
- 6.2 Los Argentinos restaurant, 28 West Preston St – in addition to the inappropriate white plastic frontage added some years ago, the latest alterations include very garish huge pink illuminated lettering and a picture of a bull, totally unacceptable in this conservation area. No planning applications have been made, according to the Council's planning website. Neighbours have reported this to the SA and, we assume, to the Council Planning department.

6.3 A member asked if the metal fixtures which accommodate the 'Just Eat' bicycles needed planning consent; Cllr Perry said that they did. No planning applications had been made however. The sudden arrival of these fixtures outside the Royal College of Surgeons was considered to be an intrusion on the visual amenity of the building and its frontage. Cllr Perry said that some of the bicycles get vandalised in an attempt to remove their trackers. It was noted that the bike rack opposite Summerhall was poorly positioned and was directly across the 'desire line' for anyone walking up or down Lord Russell Place (Causewayside). *Afternote* - the bike rack has been moved to be parallel to the buildings rather than diagonally across the space.

7. Environmental matters

Hilary McDowell discussed trade waste bins. This is the official guidance from the Council

There is a right time and place for putting out rubbish or recycling in Edinburgh.

Trade waste containers left on the street have a negative impact on the city's appearance. They are not permitted to be stored on public land.

Trade waste bins are not allowed to be stored on our roads and pavements. From 1 October 2019, food and glass bins will no longer be allowed to be stored on public land.

Summary of trade waste policy

Bins or bags of waste must only be put out for collection on streets during the following times

- 9.30am to 12pm
- 2pm to 4pm
- 6.30pm to 11pm.

Within these times, waste is only allowed to be put out for up to one hour. It is your responsibility to arrange when your waste will be collected with your waste collector. If your waste remains uncollected, you should remove it from the street, store it on your premises and contact your waste collector to rearrange collection.

All bags and bins must be clearly marked with your business' name and collection time.

Waste may only be placed on the street when the business is staffed and not overnight.

Waste containers must be placed as near to the edge of a business' property as possible, whilst ensuring there is pedestrian access. You must not block the pavement or road.

Hilary wrote to the Council as follows-

A - "There is no evidence of any reduction in the number of such trade waste bins on the pavements in the Southside area. I know that letters were delivered to businesses earlier in the year to allow them to get ready for these new regulations. I remember that when the restrictions on waste bins for businesses came into place some years ago that all bins were to be marked with the name of the business and the date and time that it was to be serviced. Hardly any bins in this area now display any such information. Some businesses regularly keep all their bins on the front street, for instance Pizza Hut on Newington Road usually has 5 bins in front all night and much of the day. Many businesses put out bags of waste overnight."

REPLY - *There has actually been a significant reduction in the bins being permanently stored on street, they are though allowed to present them to be emptied, there are some that have been slow*

to change, I am in dialogue with the waste companies, and unfortunately things take longer than we hope sometimes.

B – “Earlier this month I phoned 529 5151 to ask about how this new restriction was to be implemented. I was put through to a member of staff in the waste department who told me that she knew nothing about any such ban and neither did her colleague when she checked with them. Only that morning she had issued exemption notices to allow food and glass waste bins to be left on pavements outside businesses. She knew nothing about the information on the website which I copy above.”

REPLY - *Waste Compliance are the team that dealt with these requests, there have been no exemptions given since around April this year for businesses to store food or glass waste bins permanently on the street.*

The SA had submitted a Freedom of Information series of questions to the Council, as follows:

1. Please will you tell us how the new regulations are to be enforced and by whom?

REPLY - *Presently Waste Compliance deals with this going forward it will be the Environmental Wardens; the regulations will be enforced using the Environmental Protection Act.*

2. Is there a phone no or email address we can use to report bins still on the street?

REPLY - Waste.compliance@edinburgh.gov.uk or env.wardens@edinburgh.gov.uk

3. Is there to be a period of grace before this is enforced and if so when will the bins be removed? (When the other trade bins were to be removed it was actually the Council which had to use vehicles to remove bins off the pavements as many businesses refused to comply, despite many warnings. We hope that will not be the case this time.)

REPLY - *Officially there is no grace period, however we have to use discretion and appreciate that is it practical to submit reports to the Procurator Fiscal, which the Fiscal may not take forward to formal proceedings, when with a little work we can get the business compliant with the regulations.*

4. Will you please make sure that all the appropriate staff within the Council knows the current Council policy and if there really are exemptions please will you change the advice on the Council website so that the public have the correct information?

REPLY - *I can assure you that all the staff that deal with this issue are aware of the regulations and the legislation, there are no exemptions.*

5. Many businesses now store all of their bins, including general and packaging waste on the front street all the time. I have not seen a single bin marked up with the days and times when the bins are to emptied / presented and most no longer have the name of the business on them either. Is this still a requirement? If so, who is responsible for enforcing this?

REPLY - *If you could inform me as to which businesses are permanently storing all their bins on the street, I shall deal with them one by one, we have a process to follow. Waste should be*

identified when presented for uplift. It is Waste Compliance and will be Environmental Wardens going forward, but there are limitations on attempting to deal with each individual case.

Hilary had provided the Council contact with a list of 23 local businesses which had put out bins on the morning of Monday 4 November. Very few of the bins were identifiable and none had the required labels detailing collection dates and time slots.

The officer replied that they are already at various stages with dealing with many of the businesses on the list, and enforcement action is used as a last resort. He covers everything south of Princes Street, and matters take time to resolve as this has been a major change for some businesses, which are working towards solutions with their contractors.

8. Report and Q & A with the attending Councillor

Cllr Perry had participated in discussions. He said that the Council still had to settle its 3-year budget, but that savings of £100 million had to be made, to follow the £40 million savings already made over the past two years. He said that the Council spends £1 billion a year, half of which goes on new schools and the refurbishment of existing ones. It is the Council's aim to run services more efficiently. There is a Scottish Government consultation with the tourist industry on the introduction of a transient visitor levy, which could bring the city £15 million a year.

9. Any other business

9.1 Jan Fraser referred to the behaviour and driving habits of private hire cars, mentioning numerous examples; Cllr Perry said that these should be reported to the police, as the Council's Licensing Dept only has authority over black cabs. Similarly, Jan mentioned many Highway Code infringements by Deliveroo and Uber etc cyclists, and again these should be reported to the police.

9.2 She again raised the subject of the Council adding a filter to the traffic lights at the west end of Bernard Terrace so that vehicles turning right into South Clerk Street can do so safely, particularly during hours of darkness.

9.3 Edinburgh Tourism Strategy 2030

Philip McDowell kindly provided a power point presentation of the above Council document, the introduction to which is as follows -

This document is the first draft of the Edinburgh 2030 Tourism Strategy. It has been prepared on behalf of the Edinburgh Tourism Strategy Implementation Group for the purpose of public consultation during the period November-December 2019. Your views on this draft strategy are welcome; please provide your feedback by answering the questions on the form provided. Once feedback from the consultation has been received, the strategy will be finalised and published in early 2020.

Please see <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/ce/edtourism2030/>

Philip led a discussion on the contents of the document. The aim is to strike a balance between tourism and the lives of city residents. Discussions included short-terms lets, Air BnB, pedestrian only zones, buses and trams, and TVL (possible future transient visitor levy). Comments on the consultation are required by 30 November, and the SA as well as some individual members will make a submission.

- 9.4 Maggie Bagan again asked if the Nelson Hall lease had been signed by its occupant; Cllr Perry will enquire. She also asked about the disruption caused by various events and road closures most weekends in the city.
- 9.5 Liz Logie again asked about the closure date of the Council Waste depot at Cowan's Close, mentioning the noise made by staff arriving at 5.30am and when they leave in their Council vehicles a little later. No-one in the Council seems to know, or be willing to tell her.
- 9.6 Maggie Bagan again brought up her problem with finding somewhere to park on Blackwood Crescent when she is giving a disabled person a lift. She is asking for more disabled parking spaces there.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3 December, at 5pm, in St Patrick Square.

Future Dates – Tuesdays – 7 Jan, 4 Feb, 3 Mar, 7 Apr, 5 May, 2 Jun.