

# ***The Southside Association***

**117 Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9ER**

*Founded 1972*      *Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

**www.southsideassociation.co.uk**

**Members' Meeting  
Tuesday 7 January 2020 at 6.45pm  
Room 1, Southside Community Centre**

## ***Minutes***

**PRESENT:** Colin Christison (Chair), Maggie Bagan, Bob Hodgart, May Linton, Liz Logie, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, and Jo Scott; Cllr Alison Dickie; PC Craig Cairns, and PC Neil Mackay.

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

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

### **2. Police Report**

PC Mackay described a very busy December for Police Scotland in Edinburgh in terms of the following numbers –

- 13576 telephone calls made including 4371 to 999
- 2824 crimes recorded
- 2441 reports of ASB
- 154 house-breaking including 96 domestic
- 256 missing persons reports
- 855 concern for personal safety
- 150 road traffic offences
- 560 road traffic collisions

On 31 December/1 January, for Scotland, there were 3400 calls to the police between 6pm and 6am, with 800 between 1am and 3am on 1 January.

He went on to mention traffic checks in the area, and various offences were noted, such as motorists driving with a provisional licence, drivers with no insurance, speeding, drugs in cars, but all the breath tests proved to be negative.

Convictions had been made for the murder at Prestonfield; after numerous house-breakings during November and December, a 25 year-old male had been caught in the act; cash had been stolen from

a static cabin in Bristo Square on 1 January; drugs had been seized in Richmond Place at the end of November; a 15 year-old male had been charged with fire-raising (black bins) at Roxburgh Place; and 4 youths were apprehended on 27 December and charged with assaults and robberies in the Nicolson Street area.

Persistent double parking in Lutton Place was raised – this should be reported to the parking wardens.

A resident had written about street begging, as follows: “I wonder if this forum knows what the police are doing about the countless number of beggars that line this part, and indeed many parts, of the city. My concern is for the safety and well-being of the beggars as I fear there is an organised crime dimension and that some of the individuals may be trapped in ‘modern slavery’.”

The reply was that officers ask the Eastern European beggars about trafficking but they say that they are begging of their own volition. They tend to carry all their belongings with them perhaps because they do not know where they will be sleeping on a regular basis. There was a discussion about the matter, and it was noted that a plane full had returned to Romania the previous week. Regular beggars are displaced by the foreign ones, it seems.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 5 November 2019, and matters arising**

Approved; proposed by Jo Scott, and seconded by May Linton.

3.1 *Item 3.3* – (untaxed Land Rover at Blackwood Cres) – no update.

3.2 *Item 6.2* – (signage etc at restaurant in West Preston St) – no update.

3.3 *Item 6.3* – (metal ‘Just Eat’ bicycle fixtures) – Cllr Perry reported that these do not in fact fall under the definition of development requiring planning permission.

3.4 *Item 7* – Trade Waste bins - Cllr Perry had sent the following comments:

“In April 2019, we wrote to all private Waste Contractors to advise that the City of Edinburgh Council was ending the temporary exemption scheme for allowing the permanent storage of food and glass bins on public space. Businesses were also informed of these changes and were advised to contact their contractor to find an alternative solution. The temporary exemption scheme ended on 30 September 2019 and whilst there has been a positive response to the changes in the policy, some bins do still remain permanently stored on public space. The Council’s Waste Compliance Team consists of four officers who have city wide responsibility for enforcing breaches in the Policy and enforcement action has been taken against businesses for failing to comply. The process for having permanently sited trade waste bins removed can be lengthy and can take up to five weeks to conclude due the legislation used. Whilst it is appreciated that this may appear to members of the public that no action is being taken, it must be followed meticulously in case the business is eventually referred to the Procurator Fiscal for prosecution. Businesses can present their waste for up to one hour during the authorised timed windows which are 9.30am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm and 6.30pm – 11pm. Complaints have been received regarding trade waste bins being out on public space but when investigated it has been found that the bin was out for uplift within an authorised timed window and no offence had actually been committed. The Waste Compliance Team will continue to ensure that all businesses are compliant with the policy and it would greatly assist them if bins that are permanently stored on public space

could be reported to them for investigation. Contact details for reporting, as follows: [Waste.Compliance@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Waste.Compliance@edinburgh.gov.uk) “

- 3.5 *Item 9.2* (possible traffic filter at Bernard Tce) – Cllr Perry had written to say that a request has been sent to Transport.
- 3.6 *Item 9.5* (Cowan’s Close Waste depot) – Cllr Perry had written to say that is likely to close in June or July 2020.

#### **4. Chair’s Report**

Christmas Event - In spite of misgivings about the timing of the event being brought forward by one hour, the turnout was again very high for the Christmas Carol Service at St Patrick Square at 5pm on Tuesday 3 December, and it was a great success. The event is the only one in the area which gives locals the chance to engage with each other, and to allow parents to chat away from the school gates. We hope to keep it at 5pm. This time the Edinburgh University Music Society brought a large brass band and even larger choir, and their singing and playing was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Thanks to Cllr Rose for welcoming everyone, to Colin Symes for officiating, and to Sarah Boyack MSP for switching on the festive lights. We are greatly indebted to local businesses, including Tesco Metro and four pizza outlets for in-kind support, and to Philip McDowell and Scott Wilkins for technical support. We are also grateful to the Council’s Community Grants Fund for a grant, still to be received.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report**

Bank balance is £721.00.

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

- 6.1 Spotlight Cinema – message received as follows “I’m sorry that I don’t have any more positive news just now but our plans for the first half of next year have changed and we now plan to refurbish the Grosvenor cinema in Glasgow. This is Glasgow’s oldest surviving cinema and it has moved up the list of priorities due to the intense competition in Glasgow. The works are due to be completed by mid-July so I hope to be in a position to update you in the summer.”
- 6.2 Salisbury Hotel – following complaints by neighbours, the Planning Dept has asked the owner to remove a wooden construction covering virtually the entire garden by 10 January, otherwise an enforcement notice will be served.
- 6.3 19/02618/FUL, resubmission relating to 18/01483/FUL – refurbishment and extension etc of 2A Davie Street: permission refused as proposal contrary to certain Local Development Plan policies.

#### **7. Environmental matters**

- 7.1 The ‘No Right Turn’ notice by the Queen’s Hall which prohibits motorists from turning right into Montague Street is still pointing the wrong way, despite many requests for attention over several months. Cllr Dickie will again attempt to resolve this issue.

- 7.2 The former hairdressing shop at 95 Newington Road is being refitted in the expectation of reopening at the end of the month as a Chinese tea and cake shop/cafe, despite not having planning permission. Such permission was refused in 2002.
- 7.3 Pallets and commercial bins still being put on streets by known offenders.
- 7.4 There are many instances of fly-posting by the Holyrood Boxing Gym.

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

Cllr Dickie referred to the refurbishment of Nicolson Square, including the Road Safety Audit, positioning of bus shelter, road resurfacing, and so on, mentioning that it was all taking a long time. She has a meeting with officials in the near future.

There are still a host of issues being dealt with at Carnegie Court.

Much of her workload at present is helping residents who are suffering from drug related ASB issues, particularly in tenement stairs; she is continuing to foster multi-agency co-operation and information sharing.

## **9. Any other business**

- 9.1 Maggie Peatfield, the SA's representative on the Southside Community Council, had sent a brief report to mention that Mike Shields, Community Parks Officer, will attend the next SCC's meeting on 14 January; and she wanted to thank the UoE for putting CCTV cameras at the recycling area at Potterrow.
- 9.2 Jo Scott referred to the controversy about various aspects of Edinburgh's winter festivals, and there was a discussion about the implications for the city and its reputation.
- 9.3 Maggie Bagan once more asked if the Nelson Hall lease had been signed; Cllr Dickie will again enquire.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

4 February 2020

**Future Dates** – Tuesdays – 3 Mar, 7 Apr, 5 May, 2 Jun, 8 Sep, 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec