

# THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9ER

*Founded 1972*

*Scottish Charity No SCO12262*

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## **Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Education Centre on Tuesday 6 March 2012, at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Maggie Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Bob Hodgart, Tom King, Isobel Leckie, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Julie Logan, Kenny McLeod, Rose Mongan, Ethel Murray, George Pitcher, Molly Ross, Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, Colin Symes, PC Graham Watt, David Wood, and Joan Young.

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

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Barr, Robert Beaton, Sarah Boyack MSP, Jan Fraser, Carol McHugh, Jean Miller, David Raine, Robert Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Keith Smith, Louise Smith, Ola Uduku, and Marjory Watson.

### **2. Police Report**

Sandra welcomed PC Graham Watt, who described the recent spate of assaults and robberies in the area. Most of the culprits were in custody. More police, including plain clothes officers would be working on the Southside corridor on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. He advised that people shouldn't carry a lot of cash, and should take great care when withdrawing cash from autotellers. It is possible to withdraw cash from autotellers sited within bank branches, or withdraw cash from a teller at the counter. A member recounted how a teller had tried to persuade her to use an outside autoteller without seeming to care about the fact that she was uncomfortable about using them. Nevertheless crime figures were down massively, especially youth crime in Dumbiedykes.

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

### **3. Presentation: Julie Logan, from Remade**

Sandra introduced Julie, a representative from Remade.

This community-led group runs a sewing, and computer repair drop-in session every Friday, 10am–12 noon, at South Bridge Resource Centre on Infirmary Street. Currently they have sewing and computer experts on hand each week to help people

repair their belongings, instead of them going to landfill. Their website <http://www.remadeinedinburgh.org.uk/> states

“....so bring along your mending or laptop computer. We hope to add other mending skills to our regular offering once we have a permanent venue, but in the meantime if you have repair skills to share please talk to us! There are sewing machines for you to try, and also an optional mending/recycling activity each week. These optional activities usually consist of a demonstration starting at 10.30am, followed by the chance to have a go yourself. We may ask for a small donation to cover costs for this - usually 50p - £1. If you want to get help with your laptop please come early. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available (donations welcome to cover costs).”

Knitting, weaving, crochet, as well as sewing, are also featured. Some funding has been granted from the Waste Action Group and 10:10 UK so that a part-time co-ordinator and administrator can be employed, and 30 volunteers can be trained. The group would like to obtain secure premises in the future. After some questions and answers, Sandra and the members thanked Julie for her presentation.

#### **4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7 February 2012**

Approved; proposed by Linda Femister and seconded by George Pitcher.

#### **5. Matters arising**

- 5.1 (Item 5.1) - St Leonard Street – holes in pavement now repaired.
- 5.2 (Item 6 – website) – after some discussion it was agreed to register the names ‘Southside Association’ and Southside Association Edinburgh’ in the meantime, and, as it would be more economical to have a Facebook page, to encourage people to sign up for it.

#### **6. Secretary’s report and correspondence**

- 6.1 Royal Commonwealth Pool reopens on Tuesday 20 March. The Craggs Sports Centre reopens on Friday 23 March.
- 6.2 Edinburgh Private Tenants Action Group is holding a public meeting to launch a campaign for tougher enforcement against criminal landlords on Thursday 8th March, 7:00pm until 9:00pm at Old St Pauls Church 39 Jeffrey Street. ([www.eptag.org.uk](http://www.eptag.org.uk) facebook.com/edinburghprivatetenantsaction).
- 6.3 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It was pointed out that any commemorative events could be spread out over the year. The Community Centre was holding its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events during week commencing 18 June, and perhaps the Southside Association would show the film “Pull it Doon” during that week. Otherwise it was agreed to hold a party with jazz music after the AGM on 1 May, and an

extension to 10pm would be sought. George proposed to produce a larger edition of the Southsider in June, with contributions from former councillors and so on. It was hoped to contribute to any exhibition mounted in the Centre. The Rev Ian Maxwell would be happy to hold a short service at Kirk O'Field, perhaps followed by a tea party.

#### 6.4 Planning

There were two applications of concern

**PLANNING APPLICATION NO 12/00558/FUL**

CHANGE OF USE FROM SHOP (CLASS 1) TO COFFEE SHOP/CAFETERIA (CLASS 3)  
IN RETROSPECT AT 18 SOUTH CLERK STREET, EDINBURGH EH8 9PR

**PLANNING APPLICATION NO 12/00447/FUL**

CHANGE OF USE FROM SHOP (CLASS 1) TO CAFÉ/RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT  
20 SOUTH CLERK STREET, EDINBURGH EH8 9PR

It was agreed to send letters of objection about these applications as it was considered that there is already a significant over-provision of such outlets in the area. CC to write.

#### 6.5 Former *Odeon* cinema

Duddingston House Properties now propose to have a bar on the ground floor, a restaurant on the first floor, to mothball the main auditorium, and to build a block of student flats to the rear. There already was planning consent for the flats, and a planning application for the other proposals was expected. It was clear that there is no appetite for more pubs in the area, and a watch would be kept for a new licence application.

#### 6.6 Community Centre events

Leaflets were distributed giving details of a jazz concert, and a concert for St Patrick's Day, both to be held in the Centre in the near future.

### 7. Treasurer's report

The balance at the end of January was £2307.39.

### 8. Environmental matters, including Craggs Sports Centre litter pick

8.1 Cllr Burgess had started arrangements for a litter pick at and around the Craggs Sports Centre, preferably before it reopens. Several volunteer helpers had already put their names forward. Date to be confirmed.

8.2 Some environmental improvements had been carried out at Carnegie Court, including the lowering of a concrete wall and the installation of some large

planters. However Rose Mongan was disappointed that the play area for children had been removed, and that a handrail had not been replaced.

- 8.3 Molly Ross complained about the mass of litter around the railings at the former Pillans & Wilson or Woolfson building in Bernard Terrace.
- 8.4 Tom Bonallo reported that a litter bin had been removed from the nature garden at Brown Street. CC to notify Council.
- 8.5 Hilary McDowell had sent detailed information on her numerous attempts to get Scottish Water to make urgent repairs and replace missing toby covers throughout the area.
- 8.6 A meeting of the Environmental and Town Centre group will be held on 12 March.

## **9. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor**

No Councillor present.

## **10. Any other business**

- 10.1 Report from the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership meeting held on 27 February, and attended by George Pitcher. Written report circulated.
- 10.2 New Community Safety Group– first meeting to be held on 21 March.
- 10.3 2 and 14 bus service – it was noted that there had been a slight alteration to the routes locally, in order to assist people getting from South Clerk St etc to the Grassmarket more readily.
- 10.4 Colin Symes said that the Community Church in South Clerk Street had established a toy lending scheme (similar to a library), which operated on Wednesdays between 9.30am and 11.30am. There is a small subscription and about 80 families have registered to use the facility.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 3 April 2012, at 7pm.

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