

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Centre on Tuesday 1 October 2013, at 7pm

PRESENT: Lisa Sibbald (Chair), Margaret Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Susan Brown, Cllr Steve Burgess, Sgt Steve Cairns, Colin Christison (Secretary), Jan Fraser (Treasurer), Moira Gibson, Sheila Gilmore MP, Tom King (Vice-Chair), May Linton (Membership Secretary), Kenny McLeod, George Pitcher, Tim Pogson, PC Heather Powell, Molly Ross, Jo Scott, Keith Smith, Derek Suttie, and Marjory Watson.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Vera Anderson, Sarah Boyack MSP, Linda Femister, Bob Hodgart, Kimberley Lewis, Hilary McDowell, Ethel Murray, Louise Smith, Pamela Spiers, Random Switch, Colin Symes, Scott Wilkins, and Joan Young.

2. Police Report

Lisa Sibbald introduced Sgt Cairns and PC Powell. Thefts of pedal cycles were continuing. The problem of graffiti in the Nicolson St-Clerk St corridor is being tackled as a priority, and since the authorities are able to remove graffiti from public buildings only, the force would like volunteers from the Association to help liaise with owners of private properties and shops. The result of the review of community policing is expected soon. Police Scotland are reviewing the service delivered at Police Public Counters; more information at www.scotland.police.uk. The St Leonard's Station will continue to operate round the clock.

3. (Kimberley Lewis, Community Champion from Tesco Metro, Nicolson Street)

Kimberley had been unable to attend due to work pressures. She had sent a message to say that the firm was keen to keep in touch with the Association, and that they would support the Christmas event.

4. Minutes of meeting of 10 September 2013, and matters arising

Approved; proposed by Jan Fraser and seconded by Tom King.

- 4.1 Item 4.4 - Southside Community Council received insufficient nominations to be re-established.
- 4.2 Item 4.5 – (Instant Arena) It was unclear how soon the venue would open. Gerry Boyle has been approached to see if the Association could have a short tour of the premises as part of the November meeting.

- 4.3 Item 6.3 (change of use to form hot food takeaway at 86 Nicolson St) – objection considered material.
- 4.4 Item 9.1 (Leaflets about temporary disability ramps) – Caroline Barr would continue her project at her own pace, and without funding from the Association.
- 4.5 Item 4.2 (Causey Photographic Project) – Susan Brown offered her congratulations to everyone involved in the ‘Southsiders –Portrait of a Community’ project.

5. Secretary’s Report

- 5.1 People for Places Scotland Care and Support had sent an update on their progress with people over 65 who required structured assistance with various aspects of their lives. More information at community.connecting@placesforpeople.co.uk
- 5.2 The AGM of the Community Centre will be held on Tuesday 12 November at 7pm. The Association is allowed to nominate a member to serve on the Centre’s Management Committee.
- 5.3 Further to Item 4.1 (above) the lack of a community council for the Southside means that the Association is likely to be asked to continue to represent the area on the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, which next meets in November. There was a discussion about the wider role the Association plays in the area, as well as suggestions for future activities, redeveloping old talents, and closer liaison with other local groups. There was a possibility that funding destined for the SCC could be awarded to the SA. Cllr Burgess was sure that he and his fellow councillors, and council officials, would be supportive of the SA’s work.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Jan Fraser said that the balance remained at £2104.08.

7. Planning and Licensing Matters

- 7.1 Application by Domino’s Pizza, 101 Nicolson Street, for 5am hot food takeaway continued for consideration until the Licensing sub-committee’s meeting on 11 October. (Objection sent 12 May).
- 7.2 Noor Indian Takeaway, 56 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9PS) has an application for a 2am late hours catering licence; it was agreed to object.
- 7.3 Change of use from former letting agent’s office to tea room at 32 South Clerk Street; consent granted.
- 7.4 Holyrood Park Road advertising hoarding; it had been ruled that the hoarding was to be removed. However it was thought that the applicant might be appealing the decision of the Reporter through the courts. Cllr Perry will advise in due course.

8. Environmental Matters

- 8.1 Meadows 1 - the restoration work (turfing and seeding) after the Ladyboys has been accomplished already, months earlier than usual. Many of the burnt unofficial barbeque areas have also been reseeded. Once the new turf is knitted together, the area will be rolled to flatten it and make it usable for football etc. Further on-going work will include examination of drainage.
- 8.2 Meadows 2 - cycling on certain pathways had been prohibited for years, but then permitted under the Right to Roam legislation; complaints about near misses by pedestrians mean that a short-life working group is to be set up by the SCNP to look at the problem, and to propose some etiquette for cyclists and pedestrians. It was observed that the Meadows Short-Life Working Group had already looked at the issue, and suggested that the contact is made between the two groups.
- 8.3 George Pitcher reported that 12 Environmental wardens were available to deal with dog-fouling problems when reported by locals; action forms have to be completed and approved.
- 8.4 Molly Ross said that there was an accumulation of rubbish around the empty premises at Bernard Terrace. CC to report.
- 8.5 Tom Bonallo said that the burnt out litter bin at the Brown St gardens still hadn't been replaced. CC had reported this to the Council, who had replaced the lid on a 1280L black bin. CC to try and resolve the misunderstanding.
- 8.6 Hilary McDowell had queried the time that roads in Holyrood Park were reopened to traffic on the previous Sunday (well before the usual time); reply from Historic Scotland said that staff were now working on winter shifts and aimed to have the roads open by 3.30pm. This appeared to be normal practice.
- 8.7 Hilary had also asked the local councillors why there was no access from the Quartermile Development directly onto the Meadows, against the conditions in the planning brief. Gates are permanently padlocked. Cllr Orr will investigate.
- 8.8 Meadows 3 - Hilary had reported that someone had been using a stencil to graffiti advertising aimed at students, for an 'app' onto the beautiful new surfaces on the Meadows cycle paths. An official from the SCNP has said that this is unacceptable and it will be dealt with. It was noted that the Council does the same thing, advertising various items.

9. Question and Answer session with the attending Councillor

Cllr Burgess had participated in previous discussions. He looked forward to the report on community policing. He mentioned that St Patrick Square revamp should be started in January 2014.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 Sky lanterns in Holyrood Park 28.9.13 – about a couple of dozen were seen about 7.30pm, and concern was raised about the problems that these can cause, although it was acknowledged that there are no powers to stop their use.
- 10.2 Kenny McLeod made a plea that the Fire Museum at Lauriston Place (the oldest municipal fire station in the world) should not be closed after the review by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. It was noted that the Museum was a very popular place for visitors, including many from overseas.
- 10.3 There was a reminder about the Causey Southsiders Exhibition film show and panel discussion on 4 October.
- 10.4 George Pitcher had attended the Community Safety Priority Group meeting on 25 September and said that members should think about safety matters for the police to include in the next set of three local priorities.
- 10.5 Sheila Gilmore said it was very important to establish representation on the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, and to keep two-way avenues for communication open. She suggested that reports from various meetings attended by SA members be featured on future agendas.
- 10.6 Jo Scott said that huge numbers of students were cycling from Pollock Halls to King's Buildings and back every weekday, and that there were many bicycles without lights. Moira Gibson would take the matter up with the Pollock Hall authorities. It was noted that Lidl and Poundland sell inexpensive lights.
- 10.7 Sheila Gilmore discussed HMO policies, mentioning that if the Luton Place student accommodation project gets consent, the proportion of students in the Southside would reach 51%. Jo Scott said that the HMO group was due to meet soon (*Afternote* – on 7 October).
- 10.8 Derek Suttie asked which churches in the area participated in the overnight accommodation for the homeless scheme. Churches such as Mayfield Salisbury (which provides a hot meal and accommodation for one night three or four times in the winter) outside the area are involved, as well as places and agencies in the Cowgate and Grassmarket, and other facilities are provided. The Bethany Trust is heavily involved in the project. CC will write to local churches.
- 10.9 Tom King addressed the members on a wide range of subjects pertaining to the future of the Southside, mentioning employment, housing, and inward investment; and expressing concerns about how the area will be affected in the coming years. There was considerable discussion about the subject.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5 November, at 7pm.