

Members' Meeting
Tuesday 1 March 2016 at 7pm
Room 1, Southside Community Centre

Minutes

Present: Colin Christison (Chair and Secretary), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Lisa Sibbald (Treasurer), Tom King, Ethel Murray, Tom Bonallo, Kenny McLeod, May Linton, Maggie Bagan, Jo Scott, Fran Gifford, Dora Lola-Luz, Hilary McDowell, and Bob Hodgart.

Also present: PC Paul Gunderson; Cllr Cameron Rose; Anne Stewart from Places for People Scotland Care and Support.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Maurice Naftalin, Colin Symes, Isobel Leckie, Jan Fraser, Carol McHugh, and Linda Femister. Rob Arthur from the G1 Group also sent apologies.

2. Guest speaker

Anne Stewart, Senior Support Worker, Places for People Scotland Care and Support, addressed members on the issues facing older people in the community. She works at the Pleasance Day Service for Older People, attended by around a dozen local people daily, and she highlighted the quality of the experience for them as being very important for their physical and mental health and wellbeing. In order to enrich the experience, workers would be grateful for support from volunteers, ideally one day per week (a Monday, Thursday or Friday) from around 10am until 2 or 2.30pm. Support needs to be consistent and reliable so that volunteers become familiar to the old people, so students are not always suitable. The men and women attending the centre range from 60-97 years of age: some are merely old while others have dementia or physical deterioration. Volunteers would be given training in dementia awareness, food hygiene and so on, plus a PVG check, and asked to help with activities such as constructing a Map of Life (reminiscence project), helping with outings or puzzles, and generally chatting and being sociable. The work is fun and volunteers find it enjoyable.

Anne is keen to find as many volunteers as possible so a rota can be established. The Southside Association will email out Anne's flyer along with the minutes. Members suggested also contacting the Community Council, and putting the flyer on church and supermarket noticeboards, as well as the Southside Community Centre. Dora offered to send it to the Head of Nursing Studies at the University. Anne thanked members for their interest and support.

3. Police Report from Police Scotland

PC Gunderson reported that 169 crimes had been recorded in February, up 30 from January's total. Offences included 73 thefts, 50 anti-social behaviour incidents, 16 violent and four sexual offences, one robbery, one fraud, one hate crime, and 22 other offences. 50 of the 169 had been solved.

4. Report on Environment and Community Safety from Kevin Hawes, Community Safety Officer, City of Edinburgh Council

Kevin Hawes was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Minutes of meeting of 2 February 2016, and matters arising

Agreed; proposed by Lisa Sibbald, and seconded by Tom Bonallo. The Gifford Park Mural postcards, the cost of which had been funded by the UoE, were handed out for wider distribution.

6. Chair's Report

6.1 The Chair reported that, unfortunately, Rob Arthur of the G1 Group had been unable to attend to give an update on the Odeon refurbishment. He will continue to keep in touch but there have been no major developments since he reported last month. May had brought in former member Ruby Player's daughter's reminiscences about the early days of the Odeon building and these will be passed to Rob for the local interest archive he is building.

6.2 The Chair referred to leaflets (distributed) which encouraged the community to get involved in the distribution of community grants through the "South Central Decides" event at the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Square, on Saturday 30 April from 11am to 3pm. Over £200,000 is available for Community Grant Funding and the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme. Further information is available at <http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central>. Applications for consideration close on Friday 25 March and could include bids for funding for new equipment for community groups, and so on. The public then decides at the event who gets the funding. A similar approach in Leith was very successful.

6.3 Residents' parking permits will not be issued to 1-13 Buccleuch Place or to 30, 32, 34 Buccleuch Street. Five parking bays in Chambers St will be amended from end-on parking to angle parking.

6.4 An entry into the SCVO Awards scheme has been made by the Southside Association in support of members' work on the Gifford Park Mural. Good luck!

- 6.5 The Braidwood Bikepark Group SCIO informed the Association that 'The SKELF' bike-skills park at the Braidwood in the Southside, near the CRAGS Sports Centre, has recently been granted planning permission, following the agreement of a lease for the site, and over 80% of the funding being raised (£45,000 is still required)
www.theskelf.org.uk

A condition of core funding from the Commonwealth Games Legacy 2014 Active Places requires construction of the track to begin soon and this, coupled with a requirement of the Planning Consent that nesting birds not be disturbed between March and September, means that initial preparation of the site has already begun, including removal of trees from the part of the site earmarked for the pump track. This work has been undertaken in accordance with the Tree Survey, Felling Plan and Landscape Management Plans agreed as part of the Planning Consent, and carried out by qualified tree surgeons. Almost 200 new native species and fruit trees will subsequently be planted on the site to replace those removed.

- 6.6 The site of the former Lismore Rugby Club is currently empty and likely to be sold by the Council, possibly becoming art studios.

7. Treasurer's Report

Lisa said that the balance remains at £1,548.39, and a couple of bills (renewal of the website domain name for a two-year period and the quarterly hosting fee) will soon have to be paid.

8. Planning and Licensing Report

- 8.1 PA 16/00158/FUL – change of use from Class 1 (retail shop, formerly the Finishing Touch) to Class 3 (café/restaurant) - Objection on grounds of over-provision lodged and considered material.

- 8.2 PA 15/00629/EOPDEV - the Association had asked for the Planning Department to consider whether the variety of colours of paint used outside these premises (the Doghouse) was permissible; the Council said that it was not expedient to take any action.

9. Environmental Matters

- 9.1 Philip McDowell, Chair of the Southside Community Council, has worked up a helpful spreadsheet which aims to list all the commercial properties on the main corridor of Nicolson Street to Newington Road that lies within our Community Council area, and provide an analysis of types of shops, 7% of which are empty. Members are invited to view it and suggest how else information might be arranged to be useful. Cllr Rose spoke about the limits to concentrations of certain types of shop in the

Newington/Nicolson corridor which is designated as a Town Centre. Tom King asked whether members should reconsider their position on over-provision of coffee shops and the like as he felt it better to have premises occupied rather than lying empty. Hilary was concerned that a coffee shop then applied for a hot food licence and didn't shut until 3am, with all the concomitant noise, waste, smells and disruption. It was noted that a hot food consent can outlive a particular lease.

- 9.2 Tom K and other members felt strongly that any new permissions for planning and licensing should definitely require, as a material factor, that sufficient space within the premises was allocated for storage of waste. Cllr Rose said this could not be imposed retrospectively on existing premises but he would investigate whether this requirement could be made mandatory for future applications.
- 9.3 An unsatisfactory response was received in response to the Association's letter about lighting in Montague and Rankeillor Streets with no offer to adjust lighting levels. Members feel the lamp-posts are too few and too high. Attention was also drawn to the lamp standards in the Meadows which are due for repainting.
- 9.4 Hilary had news about the Meadows: the Boroughloch Walk is to be widened for cyclists; the Jawbones will be reinstated, with lovely lighting, very soon; the diagonal path across the tennis courts in the Meadows has no name and she asked members to suggest something suitable. A Freedom of Information enquiry has been submitted to the Council asking about the income from events in the Meadows in the past three years and how it's been allocated.
- 9.5 Hilary also reported that a decision about the over-large bus shelter in Buccleuch Street was due in April; resurfacing of some roads would take place between April and June; commercial bins had, as promised, been removed but black bags were being put out – anyone seeing this should call the Environmental Wardens on 0131-529 5204. David Doig was retiring at the end of March.

10. Report from, and Question and Answer session with, the attending Councillor

Cllr Rose reported that, from June, the City Council's four new super-localities will be in place, with Council, Police and NHS boundaries all aligned.

Cllr Rose promised to look into the *à la carte* parking situation and dumping of waste at Briery Bauks.

There may be opportunities to work with contractors at Homebase and Lutton Court to have them fund new trees.

Dora asked Cllr Rose to investigate whether the 7am-7pm policy on construction noise could be reviewed: he will report back.

Maggie voiced concerns about the illegal camp in Holyrood Park and road closures for pothole repairs.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5 April at 7pm.