

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

**117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER**

Founded 1972 Scottish Charity No SCO12262

www.southsideassociation.co.uk

**Members' Meeting
Tuesday 4 October 2016 at 7pm
Room 1, South Side Community Centre**

Minutes

Present: Colin Christison (Chair), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Jan Fraser, Fran Gifford, Kenny McLeod, May Linton, Maggie Bagan, Ethel Murray, Tom Bonallo, Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Bob Hodgart, Steven Carter, Dora Lola-Luz.

Also present: PC Chris Harris, Cllr Perry, Kevin Hawes, Gordon Duffy.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Colin welcomed everyone including new member Philip McDowell to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Isobel Leckie and Jo Scott.

2. Police Report from Police Scotland

PC Harris was welcomed to the meeting. He will be in our locality for the next three years, replacing PC Ross Stewart.

PC Harris reported that although the community team has been reduced, the response team has been strengthened. The August crime figures show that crimes for dishonesty are down 30%, and housebreaking, car break-ins and vandalism are all down on the same time last year. Shoplifting is up, probably displaced from the city centre where a ban is in place. Drug crimes appear to be up, because they're all processed through St Leonard's, but they're at 'normal' levels. PC Harris advised members to report cannabis smells to Crimestoppers, not just once but every day they smell it, since they're keen to collect evidence.

The assault in Salisbury Place has been very distressing: police are looking for a white, 6' tall, male of large build with dark hair, wearing a red tartan kilt, black hoodie and boots.

PC Harris circulated a leaflet on how to spot fakes of the new plastic £5 note.

Kevin Hawes is now in Community Safety Team 3 in the new South East Locality which comprises Southside/Newington, Liberton/Gilmerton, Meadows/Morningside, and the City Centre. He

reported that he is now one of six officers where previously there had been 13. Kevin's focus is on flyposting, graffiti and bins. Noise also falls within the community safety team: for daytime/domestic noise, phone 101 and ask for the community safety team; for night-time noise, phone 101 and the Night Community Safety Team will address this on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5.30pm-2.30am. In the new structure, Steven Cuthill is the local Transport and Environment Manager and Kevin suggested we might like to invite him to speak to the Association and explain his remit.

3. Minutes of meeting of 6 September 2016, and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 6 September were amended to read:

5.3 There was a discussion about the Christmas Event in December. Despite reservations by three members, the majority of members present decided to go ahead with preparations. This is a popular fixture in the local calendar, well-attended and an opportunity to attract new members.

10.2 Tom King suggested that the charity status of the Southside Association be wound up. The proposal was not supported by the wider membership present. Tom resigned his membership with immediate effect.

Subject to these changes, the minutes were agreed. Proposer: Hilary McDowell. Seconder: Maggie Bagan.

Matters Arising

3.1 Item 4.4 (*Amplified music*) – Hilary and Philip spent an entire day at the meeting which eventually discussed this issue. The well-intentioned aim of encouraging live music encompasses all amplified music, and the requirements will change from 'not audible' to 'not a nuisance', making a subjective judgement the criterion which will make enforcement difficult. The proposal faced objections from Council officials and the Police, but these were over-ruled. Hilary suggests that, from now on, all renewals of licences should be checked by the Association and the Community Council to review any variation in terms and conditions. Cllr Perry agreed to check the conditions and report back.

An issue previously raised, about why there is no easy-to-view notification list of licensing applications, as there is for planning, was discussed again. Cllr Perry will ask why the licensing list is no longer circulated and also why details are not available on the Council website.

3.2 Item 4.7 - Wobbly paving slab outside Kilimanjaro and others reported to roads officer again a few days ago.

3.3 Item 8.1 - Recycling at 81 Newington Road. It took an email to the Leader of the council to get the recycling bin on to the rota to be emptied.

3.4 Item 8.2 - Blue boxes on east side of St Leonards Street have moved but still on wrong side of road. Email exchange between a resident and council officers show that the officers think there is a dispensation for glass and food recycling bins for shops and restaurants to leave them outside. However the regulations show no such thing. Needs to be followed up. Cllr Rose showed us where to find the newly released info about when on-street bins should be emptied. Very interesting, also gave the entry code into many private bin stores and lanes that shouldn't be public knowledge. Hilary has informed Cllr Rose.

- 3.5 Item 8.3 - East Preston Street resurfaced in half the scheduled time: two weeks rather than four. Junction was not done as the contractor had asked for too much money, so don't know when that will be done. More patching recently.
- 3.6 Item 8.6 (*Flyposting*) a letter written to the Management Committee about flyposting by lets at the Centre (acknowledged, with copy of e-mail to the culprits); letter sent to the Council's Chief Executive and others about the problem of city-wide flyposting (not acknowledged). In Glasgow in 2007 the council staff started putting 'Cancelled' strips across such posters which was successful, though the matter went to court. Edinburgh Council worried that such action would be considered as adding to flyposting problem. Hilary met Cllr Main at an event and discussed this with her: she thinks the Council already has the powers to fine any business flyposting but doesn't enforce these. She said she is looking into this.
- 3.7 Item 8.7 - Abandoned cycles now gone from Parkside area and residents delighted. No action yet on the others, reported for action by council via councillor.

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 Two new members have joined. Members may like to know that news of the Association's activities is circulated by email to approximately 225 people. The Chair read an email dated 7 September from Lisa Sibbald in which she tendered her resignation as Treasurer and a member. He had written to thank her for her work as Treasurer and as previous Chair. Hilary McDowell was appointed the new Treasurer and Jan Fraser has taken over the role of membership secretary from Colin Christison. Philip McDowell is in the process of becoming webmaster. The Chair thanked those taking on new roles and had written to thank Tom King for setting up and maintaining the website.
- 4.2 Future speakers: 'Care & Repair' (www.careandrepairedinburgh.org.uk) will make a presentation in the New Year. Age Scotland is interested in coming to a meeting. We will also consider Kevin's suggestion of Sarah Burns or Steven Cuthill from the Council's new South East Locality.
- 4.3 The January meeting will be held on 10 January, a week later than usual, in the Centre's café.
- 4.4 A new list of staff for the Council's South East Locality was circulated. (attached to this e-mail).
- 4.5 Saturday 8 October, 11am-4pm in the community centre – "Mix & Mingle" - a showcase of what's on for the Over 50s.
- 4.6 Christmas event: 6 December at 6pm. Rev Richard Frazer has agreed to participate and Cllr Perry agreed to be MC, and the 'switcher-on'. Various other arrangements were in hand.

5. Treasurer's Report

Hilary McDowell said that the balance in the bank remained the same as the previous month, i.e. £1,426.65. There was a little additional petty cash.

6. Planning and Licensing Report

- 6.1 It was noted that the Association's letter of support for the Odeon development had only been acknowledged as a result of us complaining.
- 6.2 16/0875/ADV 46-48 Clerk Street. (Chemist's Shop) Association objected. Retrospective application refused and enforced as the sign and advertising vinyl by reason of size, materials and positioning has a detrimental and intrusive impact on amenity and is unacceptable.
- 6.3 TRO/16/44. Proposed amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders at West Crosscauseway, Chapel Street, Quarry Close, and Buccleuch Street. The original date for objections has been deferred by one week to 14 October. Here are the details:

The City of Edinburgh Council (West Crosscauseway, Edinburgh) (Prohibition and Restriction of Motor Vehicles) Traffic Regulation Order 201- TRO/16/44. The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended to introduce:-

- *A Pedestrian Zone on West Crosscauseway between Chapel St and Quarry Close. All parking will be removed. Access will be permitted for loading / unloading between 10.30am and 1.00pm on Sundays.*
- *A Restricted Zone on Chapel St and Buccleuch St, adjacent to West Crosscauseway. 24 hour prohibition on waiting and loading / unloading.*
- *A Restricted Zone on West Crosscauseway, between Quarry Close and Nicolson St / St Patrick St loading / unloading permitted at any time. All parking to be removed, On West Crosscauseway it is also proposed that;*
- *The One Way Traffic flow will be revoked.*
- *Access/egress for motor vehicles will be from Nicolson St/ St Patrick St.*
- *A vehicle length restriction of 7.9m will be introduced.*
- *Cyclists will be able to travel in both directions, access/egress points are to be constructed at Chapel St.*

Concern was expressed that the purpose-built cycleway on Chapel Street, installed expensively only four years ago, will be partially dismantled.

Gordon Duffy, who lives and works at Studio DuB on West Crosscauseway had asked at very short notice to be present at the meeting and was permitted to outline his concerns about the impact of the TRO. While he welcomes some of the Trust's vision for the Causey, he feels there will be a negative impact on West Crosscauseway, a view he claims is shared by other residents. Pavement width will be reduced and large vehicles (eg bin lorries) turning in the new cul-de-sac will cut across cycle lanes, making the street more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. He said that official Scottish Government guidance is against creating cul-de-sacs and there is uncertainty locally about how the new space will be used.

Hilary and others, while supportive of making the Causey a more attractive space, also voiced concerns that the project had become too ambitious and too expensive at £1.7m compared to, say, the cycle path to the Innocent Railway project which cost £0.5m. She understood that Spokes and others were concerned. She suggested a temporary TRO to trial the proposal, as had happened in George Street.

Bob Hodgart expressed concern that other representatives from the Causey were unable to be present as they were meeting the Community Council to explain the proposals. However, he, as a member of the steering committee, pointed out that there had been extensive community involvement over almost a decade with many consultations and workshops. The Council had

conducted an independent safety check on the proposals for shared space, resulting in approval of the scheme. The Council was putting in relatively little in the way of funding as most of the grant was coming from Sustrans.

It was agreed by the majority of members present that the Association, while supporting improvement in the area, could not support the extent of the current proposal in its present form and would write to object and suggest a temporary TRO.

7. Environmental Report

7.1 Newsletter about progress at St Leonard's Street for the UNITE student accommodation had been received.

7.2 Hilary reported as follows:

- Walk on East Meadows with FoMBL and other local CCs to look at where to put new benches, notice board, recently purchased gym equipment. Also to look at events site after treatment following the Underbelly occupation of site this summer. The area is in much better state this year than ever before. Looked at toddler playground and agreed more equipment needed and needs repainting. Also talked about other tasks that the FoMBL volunteers could undertake. Told about the lack of money for projects such as resurfacing paths but it was agreed that some are in a very poor state. The diagonal path by the tennis courts is to be named Archers Walk and the other one nearby is to be William Burnes Way. More such walks to be done with local members of public and council staff in future covering other areas of Meadows and Links.
- SCC proposes an area clean-up on Saturday 29 October. To be confirmed.
- We need suggestions for the next batch of road budget bids at the November meeting as these have to be submitted before the end of the year and we don't have a business meeting in December. Last year we asked for areas outside Lidl's and the area just south of Drummond Street to be upgraded. Neither has been done as yet.

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

Cllr Perry addressed concerns that bin and waste arrangements are extremely unsatisfactory. He said that £7m was cut from the waste service as part of Council budget cuts, but he feels that may have been excessive and it should be reviewed. Things were particularly strained during the Festival but should be better now. If binmen drop litter whilst emptying bins, please report this to Councillors and don't attempt to address it directly.

Members expressed concerns about the cycleway near Rankeillor Street where cyclists jump the red light. Cllr Perry agreed to investigate and report back.

9. Any other business

There was no further business.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1 November at 7pm.