

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**Monday 9 November 2015, at 7pm****The Gray Room, Nelson Hall, 5 Spittalfield Crescent, Edinburgh****MINUTES**

Present: Philip McDowell (PMcD, chair), David Benyon (DB) , Joan Carter (JC), Kaaren Haughton (KH), Robert Hodgart (RH), Gloria Lo (GL), Theodora Lola-Luz (D L-L, Southside Association) Nicholas Oddy (NO), Barbara O'Loughlin (BO'L), Tim Pogson (TP), David Wood (DW, Causey Development Trust), Councillor Orr

Apologies for absence: Svetlana Repanova

Deborah Charlesworth was appointed to take minutes until a Secretary could be appointed.

Police Report

PC Alan Jenkins gave a report, as the ward officers Ian McKay and Ross Stewart were not able to be present. He described proactive patrols that are dealing with sellers of new psychoactive substances (NPS), which are having success in reducing sales from shops in the Southside. In answer to a question, he explained the nature of these substances and the legal situation surrounding them. He summarized encouraging statistics about reduced levels of most other types of crimes, and explained a current operation to deal with housebreaking. He also outlined the traffic reduction efforts at Sciennes school, involving banning of vehicles except for those that actually need to be allowed (including emergency vehicles and those driven by disabled drivers). He will send us the email address for contacting the police.

The **minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 8 October 2015** were approved after 4 minor corrections (3 minor errors in spelling names of participants, and correction of the number of affiliated organisations from 1 to 2).

Matters arising

It was agreed that JC will represent the SCC at meetings of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, with RH deputizing when she cannot attend.

Deborah Charlesworth was co-opted to act as Secretary

Constitution and Standing Orders

The model Constitution and Standing Orders were adopted with one change: in points 12a and b of the Constitution, the words "and its committees" were removed.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer, Svetlana Repanova, was unable to attend, but reported that she is working with Councillor Orr to get a bank account set up for the Community Council.

Committees

PMcD led a discussion of the remit of three proposed committees, and it was agreed that these should be set up. Committee members who volunteered to serve initially are as follows

- a. Communications: PMcD, DC, DW, B O'L, BH, D L-L
- b. Planning and Licensing: GL (chair), KH, TP
- c. Environment: KH (chair), NO, DB, JC, D L-L (liaising with the Southside Association)

Owing to lack of time, the discussion of the aims and objectives of the Community Council was postponed until the December meeting.

Questions from the public: A member of the public asked whether interested people could receive emails about CC matters. This will be arranged by the Communications Committee until the website is available for information of this kind.

Any other business

1. KH requested that Councillor Orr and / or Donald Burgess should be asked to provide information on training events that may be relevant to community council members.
2. B O'L mentioned the possibility of applying for funding for setting up a web site and for a newsletter.
3. KH asked whether HMO application notices can be sent to the community council, as this would help inform us about the composition of the neighbourhood.
4. JC explained that it will be desirable to have representatives from the student population of the neighbourhood, and outlines steps she has taken to find some people.
5. Councillor Orr mentioned Councillors' reports, which include information about consultations, several of which have deadlines too close to this meeting for us to respond to as a community council, but to which individuals members were encouraged to respond. He highlighted the forthcoming meeting of MABLAG (the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group) meeting on Monday, 16th November, and it was agreed that RH would go as our representative.

Date of next meeting: December 14th 2015