

Southside Community Council Chair's Report Feb 2016

1. **Localities.** KH and I attended a meeting about the new organisation of the Council services by locality. Edinburgh is divided into four. We are in South East. The power point presentation shown at the meeting will be made available after 10th February, so I will put it on the website for everyone to study, and then we can have a discussion at our March meeting.
2. **Hustings.** Cllr Orr had suggested the SCC might like to organise a hustings for the forthcoming Holyrood elections. I contacted Colin Symes of the Community Church, who put me in touch with Janet Sidaway, the newly elected chair of Grange/Prestonfield Community Council. She informed me that there is already a hustings organised at the Community Church (King's Hall) on April 10 between 4.00 and 5.30. She says "We would certainly appreciate any help you can give us publicising it."
3. **Former Odeon cinema, 7 Clerk St.** I met with Rob Arthur, Operations Director, Cinema Division of G1 Group. He has also spoken to a meeting of the Southside Association. They are aiming to restore the cinema building as far as possible and reopen as a cinema in the autumn. They are also keen to be on good terms with the local community.
4. **Government website** <http://www.communitycouncils.scot/index.html>. David Wood drew my attention to this new website, which is a resource for community councillors across Scotland. It looks as if it contains useful information.
5. **Student reps.** Joan Carter has copied me in to her correspondence with Oliver Escobar about further student representation on the SCC. It looks as if it might be possible for us to have another student member through this route.
6. **Tenants Federation seminar.** The Tenants Federation are holding two seminars to discuss the challenges that communities are currently faced with. SCC members have been circulated with the details. The seminars take place on 8th and 9th February 2016.
7. **OTCC email** I have received the following email from the Old Town Community Council: At the last committee meeting of the Old Town Community Council it was suggested that a meeting with officials of the CEC might clarify and improve Community Council relations with the City Council. We are aware that the South Side, Tollcross, the West End and New Town/ Broughton share problems with the Old Town - student accommodation, traffic, planning applications etc and we wondered if you would be interested in being involved in a meeting with Council officials to discuss mutual concerns. We would hope to invite Andrew Burns, current CEO, Andrew Kerr new CEO and perhaps Sandy Howat, Assistant Director to a meeting sometime in March. I would be grateful if you could let me know what you think.

Barbara Logue

Committee member

Old Town Community Council

8. **EACC.** The top item on the news page of our website is currently the next meeting of the Edinburgh Association of community Councils which takes place on Thursday, 11/2/16. JC to attend?
9. **Spring Fling.** The South Edinburgh Arts Fair Association is holding its annual 'Spring Fling' on Saturday 9th April 2016, and we have been invited to take a stall. I'm not sure this is appropriate for us. It is well out of our area, and not likely to give us the kind of community engagement we need.
10. **App competition.** Edinburgh is looking for designers to produce Apps to do with Health and Wellbeing. See the item on the news page of our website.
11. **CPR training.** The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has teamed up with the British Heart Foundation to provide Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Should the SCC organise a session?
12. **Alcohol Focus Scotland.** Alcohol Focus Scotland has developed a new resource designed to help anyone who would like to have a say on how alcohol impacts on their community. The toolkit explains how the licensing process works in Scotland, and provides some practical tips to help people who want to get involved. The launch event will be held on Monday 22nd February, from 1pm – 2pm in the Business Centre, Edinburgh City Chambers. Places at this event are limited so please RSVP by noon on Friday 12th February by emailing david.new@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk or by phoning 0141 572 6708.
13. **Holyrood Park Distillery.** Planning application has been made to create a small whisky distillery in the Engine Shed building. I visited their display recently, and spoke to staff. The development looks fine as far as I could see. Not too much impact on the neighbourhood. I didn't like the design of the entrance foyer they plan to add to the building, but that was just my personal opinion. We might be able to get some community benefit from this development.
14. **South Central Decides.** I have received a copy of a letter sent to a resident living in public housing about this fund for environmental improvements. (See separate item [South Central Decides Letter.pdf](#)). If we have an idea that fits the criteria we could submit it, but that has to be by the end of February.

15. Scotrail Cultural Fund

£80K CULTURAL FUND TO BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Today (11 November 2015) ScotRail has launched a new Cultural and Arts Fund, worth £80,000 to local communities across Scotland.

The Fund will award £40,000 by the end of January 2016, followed by £10k each quarter until January 2017.

As part of the 'ScotRail in the Community' scheme created by Abellio ScotRail when it took over the franchise, the Cultural and Arts Fund will be devoted to community initiatives.

Applicants can receive grants up to a maximum of £5,000 to support and develop their plans in line with the Scottish Government's cultural policy*.

Charities, individuals and community groups and welcome to apply.

Elaine Bell, ScotRail's head of corporate social responsibility, said: "This fund will create many opportunities for groups and individuals across the country and we want to see lots of eligible groups, big and small, applying. This could range from Brownies, Scouts and Parent Teacher Associations to 'friends of' groups and playgroups."

Award recipient will be expected to use the funds to promote creativity, the arts, community recreation, sports themes and other cultural activity, as well as celebrate Scotland's cultural heritage in its full diversity.

Public art, children's play areas, sport outreach programmes and promotion of performing arts are among the projects which will be awarded funding.

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "The Scottish Government is working to ensure that everyone in Scotland has an opportunity to access, enjoy and participate in cultural activity. As well as bringing joy for their own sake, culture and the arts have the power to empower people and transform lives.

"Scotrail's new Cultural and Arts fund will help communities all over Scotland take part in culture and the arts, enjoying the huge benefits they can bring."

To apply, or to read more about the Fund, please visit www.scotrail.co.uk/cafund