

Southside Community Council
Environment sub group January 18th 2016

Present

Kaaren Haughton

Joan Carter

Theodora Lola-Luz

Nicholas Oddy

The group went over the minutes of the previous meeting and clarified the priority areas where the SCC may be able to make a significant difference re the environment in the Southside.

A boards Joan went through the process that the CEC has gone through to develop the policy: It is not altogether obvious if the doc was actually ratified and implemented.

We have inferred from what Kathy Evans has said that the CEC would like to licence A boards (this would also be an income stream for the CEC)

ACTION Joan will follow-up with the Council and establish what the policy is re A boards.

Bins- trade waste; many these have been removed (not glass or food) the proof will be if the environmental wardens can enforce the policy Paul Baxter is in charge of the wardens in the SS

Domestic bins these large bins encourage the disposal of waste rather than for residual waste.

The recycling bins need to emptied more frequently

Query about the contract for paper packages and glass

ACTION Kaaren and Joan to meet with Kathy Evans to discuss these and other issues with her.

New Developments & Construction in the area.

Luton Court Ogilvie

St Leonards Unite

The impact upon the residents who re sandwiched between these two developments is considerable.

Both firms are signed up to the 'Considerate Construction' guidelines and the questions are related to the enforcement of the guidelines.

The issues are: early start times 7.00 has the CEC given the firms an exemption to allow this.

Complaint about the diesel generator running 24/7 for the security lighting

The absence of a newsletter from Ogilvie's to inform local residents of the developments on the LC site.

The change to the facing stone on the building in Bernard Terrace

ACTION The group decided that it would promote the interests of the local residents if the SCC wrote to the firms

Following this decision the chair had second thoughts as to the strategic wisdom of the SCC writing to both of the companies, as individual local residents seem to be having a positive response and moving things forward.

Community benefit. Is it too late to ask for some local support from these companies:

Ideas: Trees in Luton Place

Bike storage

Preston Street School playground

Action Kaaren to Contact Jim Orr re the Community benefit scheme.

Meeting with Kathy Evans and Paul Baxter January 27th

The Council is being reorganised and as a part of this services are being divided into People and Places

The environmental wardens will be People

Community Safety Officers will be Places

The breadth of the remit for these services is enormous; the workforce is relatively small and that they have to work in pairs; this is because to take any action the offence needs to be corroborated one officer's evidence is not sufficient.

Topics covered were primarily those that pertain to the SS

Litter – Dog fouling

Fly tipping

Littering including cigarette ends and chewing gum

Trade waste

Domestic waste

Graffiti

Failure to remove site notices of HMO within 28 days

Litter outside premises is the vendors responsibility BUT NOT LICENCED PREMISES these come under different legislation.

Fines for these offences have all been increased

What was immediately apparent is that there have been relatively few convictions

Licence/permit for table and chairs outside café's and restaurants this is carefully regulated and the permit must be in date and displayed. This includes any other street furniture that the vendor may put out to draw attention to their business The permits run April to April

A boards the guidance has been passed by the CEC Kathy will send the amended doc to the SCC

Roads have the mandate to enforce this. They have taken action to have some boards in the SS removed. The wardens are aware that there are a increasing number.

A previous audit was done for the RNIB to evaluate where the A boards are best placed on the pavement.

ACTION To do a walk around the SS and audit the number of A boards and take a note of the permits out of date or not displayed.

Kathy also went over the other areas that she covers
Meadows 3 Park rangers

Student liaison

She and Paul are delighted that the SCC is available to support their work and might be a conduit to take things forward with the CEC

Kaaren Haughton