

Yesterday I met with Hilary from the Southside Association to go through the proposals we will try to forward at the Southside Corridor meeting on Tuesday. Below is the summary of what we talked about and thought was achievable; some quite quick fixes, others longer term. I am very happy to take on further suggestions and would value any feedback. We would like to say with all honesty that both the SCC and SA are jointly backing these proposals.

In terms of longer term strategy we agreed that there needs to be far more control of shopfront design and that this could be a greater ambition. We should be aiming for the Council to adopt the same level of sensibility that it currently seems to support in the New Town. We think that the appearance that Bruntsfield has is what we should be aiming for, no Perspex frontages, returning to original fenestration and fascia board dimensions whenever a make-over is required. If the bargain general store between Nicolson Square and the City Restaurant can do it and keep in business, so can every other shop in the area. Once shops look good, a lot of the junk associated with run-down areas seems to disappear. So long as a street looks cheap, it will be treated as it looks.

**a 'deep clean' of the main corridor including removal of all notices, stickers etc on poles etc**

**requirement for all notices including those put up by the council to be removed once no longer necessary and no HMO license to be issued if the notice posted outside isn't returned as stated on form**

**a promise to sort out with the utilities who is responsible for the painting / cleaning the boxes now that the former council contract has lapsed and appropriate action on this**

**removal of graffiti and a change to HMO rules so no new permit or renewal unless building and doors are clean**

**a list of current tables and chairs licences to be available on the council website and a requirement for these permits to be displayed - inspection by warden with a tape measure to check area size**

**removal of 'dead' bikes**

**removal of all telephone boxes that don't have a working phone in them and that those staying shouldn't be completely covered in advertising so that drug dealing etc can take place unseen on our streets**

**removal of all commercial bins, including food waste and glass bins from the pavements. They should only be presented for collection at the expected time and taken inside straight after.**

**for planning enforcement to take much more timely action over unauthorised alterations to buildings.**

**there should be a presumption against any application for retrospective planning permission and an appropriate financial penalty charged.**

**all shops must display their street number**

**all lamp post numbers must be visible and not covered by other notices such as those for parking restrictions.- numbers on pavement side and parking restrictions on carriage side and at a different height.**

**removal of all the stands for bins not longer in use and other street furniture such as redundant boxes for mail deliveries**

Nicholas