



Democracy at its closest to the people, the Community Council represents the views of the people of the Southside to higher levels of government. The SCC is committed to working for the good of the residents and amenities of the local area.

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Covid 19 has dominated our lives for the past year. At the start of the first lockdown there were lots of people stuck in their homes, advised not to go out for any reason. They needed help. We were privileged to be able to set up a system to recruit volunteers and get help to where it was needed. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered – we had more people coming forward than we could use, so that was a tremendous response. Thanks also to the Mackenzie Medical Centre who helped by alerting people to our system, and in some cases entering their details on our website for them.

Have a look at our website: www.sccedinburgh.org.uk

See who is on the Community Council, and the boundaries of our area. You can also see minutes and other papers of past meetings, and papers for upcoming meetings, sign up for email updates, and write to us.

Meetings of the Southside Community Council take place monthly, on the second Tuesday, except in July, August and December, at 7:00 pm. We are currently meeting on-line, but hope to get back to physical meetings soon. Meetings are open to the public, so if you would like to attend, email chair@sccedinburgh.org.uk for an invitation.

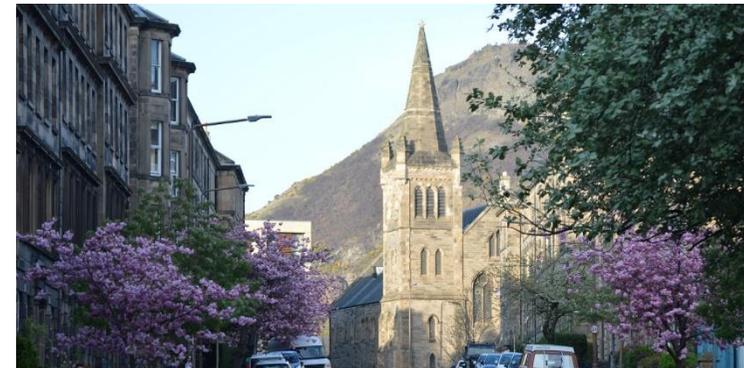
Six New Trees for Lutton Place

Lutton Place is one of the few tree lined streets in the Southside, and, as such, is much admired and appreciated by its residents, other locals, and visitors too. The Spring blossom is an exhilarating joy! However trees become old and eventually die, or do not thrive because of disease, and need to be replaced. SCC has been trying for several years to find a way to replace lost trees, and possibly even increase the total number, on this street.

Last year we were able to get two new replacement trees- lovely white blossomed cherries-through the wonderful work of Treetime, an Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust initiative to do just this work of redressing the net loss of trees in Edinburgh. We made sure they were regularly watered throughout the Spring and Summer and they are thriving.

This year six more replacement trees were planted in March! This is thanks to both a grant awarded from Scotland Loves Local and to Treetime again, who agreed to match fund the grant and carry out the work. We are very grateful to both. It is not an easy job, digging out old stumps and avoiding damaging utilities!

We now have three beautiful white blossomed cherries (Sunset Boulevard) and three white blossomed, red fruiting, lovely autumn foliage Hawthorns (Crataegus X prunifolia Splendens).



Meadows Improvements – It's lovely to see the new mural on the Tennis Pavilion at the east end of the Meadows. We understand that outdoor table tennis tables are to be installed somewhere near there too.

Planning

Keeping an eye on what's planned for our area is a key role for the Community Council. We also take a close interest in the underlying policies that determine what the City Council allows in planning terms. A new national planning framework is in the process of completion, and we have recently contributed to the consultation run by the Scottish Government. You can see our response on our website.

Pedestrian Crossing for Bernard Terrace

We have been campaigning for quite a few years to get a safe pedestrian crossing of Bernard Terrace at the junction with St Leonard's Street. All being well, this much needed and much delayed facility will finally be installed this spring.

Short Term Lets

The number of properties being put up for short term letting has increased enormously over recent years. While we want to welcome holiday-makers to the area, uncontrolled expansion of this market creates problems for permanent residents, so we are keen for the Scottish Government to give local authorities powers to licence them. A working group has been set up by the government, but we think its membership is unbalanced, giving too much say to property owners, and not enough to local communities. We are actively campaigning to get more representation for local people so that legislation when it is drawn up will be fit for purpose.

Graffiti

More and more graffiti seem to be appearing in our area. We had a letter from somebody living outside the Southside who had been quite shocked to see how things had changed since he was last in the area, a few months ago. The City Council have promised a clean-up, but we don't know when that will be, and it will only be Council property that gets cleaned. We need the owners of property which has suffered from graffiti attacks to clean up or repaint, so the area looks better cared for. Graffiti clean-up kits can be borrowed from the Charteris Centre. Email them at info@charteriscentre.com.

"Spaces for People"

Lots of temporary measures have been introduced recently to make it easier to get around on foot and by bike, and to maintain social distancing. The City Council is now considering which of these should be made more permanent. We need to know what you think. Are the new facilities helpful? Could they be better designed? Please tell us what your opinions is, so we can represent your views to the City Council, or go directly to the Council website at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spaces-people-1>



Speeding

Remember this? We were busy two years ago moving the plastic policeman around the area to reinforce the 20 mph message.

Speeding vehicles on our streets is one of our concerns. The safety of pedestrians and cyclists is vitally important, so we urge everyone to stick to 20mph. We hope soon to be trained in using the 'speed guns' ourselves so we can monitor the situation.

Holyrood Park Signage

Road closures in the park are often not well signed, resulting in motorists making unnecessary journeys along Holyrood Park Road and back again. We have been communicating with Historic Environment Scotland who manage the park, trying to get them to put up signs that are easy to read, well placed so motorists have plenty of time to change lanes if necessary. Thanks are also due to Tommy Sheppard MP who has also

been involved in discussions with Historic Environment Scotland.

If you are interested in the work of the Community Council, do get in touch. You can email chair@sccedinburgh.org.uk, or use the contact form on our website, www.sccedinburgh.org.uk.