

**SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC)**  
**Monday 14 December 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), Tim Pogson (TP), David Wood (DW, Causey Development Trust), Robert Hodgart (RH) ), Nicholas Oddy (NO), Councillor Orr

Apologies for absence: Svetlana Repanova (SR), Gloria Lo, Theodora Lola-Luz (D L-L, Southside Association

**Police Report**

PC Neil McKay reported further success in decreasing sale of new psychoactive substances (NPS), although shops in the Southside continue to sell equipment. The work is coordinated with local pharmacies. He outlined the danger of housebreaking at this time of the year, and the Police Scotland message to be alert about this, and about potential terrorism. He gave us a leaflet about a recent Day of Action in Dumbiedykes.

Kevin Hawes, the Community Safety Office based at Captains Road attended the meeting. He explained his role in dealing with disorder, noise and anti-social behaviour. He described the work that his unit have been doing to inspect stairs for evidence of drug use, and to inform residents how to contact the authorities if there are problems. Their work has noticeably reduced the numbers of needles found in stairs. He announced that trade bins will no longer be allowed on the streets from January 8<sup>th</sup> 2016.

PMcD presented a **report from the Communications committee**, and he has now set up a web site on which papers of the SCC will be available, for which he was thanked. It was agreed that reports should generally be no more than 2 pages long, and that reports on committees attended by SCC representatives should outline the salient points and reference the minutes of the meeting concerned (with links to the web site where it can be seen, if available); when longer documents are needed for specific reasons, they should be attached as separate papers.

Councillor Orr reported on various matters and noted that community benefits can be requested as conditions for support for planning applications for large developments. He passed on preliminary information about funding for large-scale community projects. The scheme is named "SouthCentra£Decides". CC members TP and SR have links with this scheme. Bike storage and parking were discussed. It was noted that on-street bicycle storage bins are successful, and it was requested that the council should consider allocating some proportion of car parking bays to bicycle storage. CC members will suggest locations suitable for further Sheffield racks, and prepare a list to be sent to the council. The problems with the new bus shelters were discussed (also discussed at the Environment committee). The new shelters are large because they include advertising spaces, but Councillor Orr will ascertain what

regulations apply to pavement areas, which ought to allow bus users to coexist comfortably with pedestrians, wheelchair users and families with children in pushchairs. He will inform us of the person to contact to report any problems.

The secretary reported that there has been little work this month, apart from listing and communicating correspondence kindly forwarded by the Southside Association, for which they were thanked.

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on November 9 2015 were approved after a minor correction.

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer, Svetlana Repanova, was unable to attend.

**Environmental group:** KH presented a report. Their written report that outlines the large amount of done by others work during the period when the SCC was not active. The group identified 4 areas in which they will initially work. Among them are bus shelter problems and bike storage and parking (see above), A boards outside shops, and the problems of waste bins.

**Planning and Licensing:** GL submitted a written statement, including a suggestion for more proactive work and for a walk-about in the area. This will take place in the new year. KH feels that the Environmental group will have much work, and that she cannot therefore be part of the Planning and Licensing group too. A new member should be added.

**The aims and objective of the community council** were discussed (postponed from the November meeting), particularly ideas for including more of the diversity of the area. It was agreed that a "Community day" will be organized (probably in May), with information for residents of the area, and that we should participate in future Dumbiedykes Days of Action, and in the Meadows Festival, perhaps sharing a tent and banner with other local Community Councils. It was suggested that students from suitable courses, such as Masters degrees in community activity, or politics, might be interested, and that the mosque should be invited to send a representative to meetings.

**Questions from the public:** There were no questions.

**Other business.**

1. RH gave members copies of a map and a link to a web site with local statistics (<http://www.sns.gov.uk/Reports/AreaProfile.aspx>) with useful information that might allow us to identify under-represented areas.
2. In response to an email about the changes proposed in the Council budget proposal for music lessons for schoolchildren, it was decided that we would send a letter supporting the Gillespies' School Parent Council who are opposing this change, with copies to the councilors.

**Date of next meeting:** January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016