

SCC CHAIR'S REPORT, for meeting of June 13, 2016

- 1. Community Day-**(14th May) This went very well. Lots of people met us and we met them and had some very interesting and in-depth conversations. Almost 60 questionnaires were filled out; summary on website.

We can decide how we want to follow this up. Ideas:

- Send our results/summary to our Councillors
- Do the same again in a year's time- let folk know then what progress has been made; find out what they are concerned with then.

- 2. Walk About-** (19th May) Hilary organised a repeat of the walk she did a year ago to look at what had-or largely had not- been done that had been identified as needing attention. On the walk were Hilary, Philip, Kaaren, Kathy Evans, Alan Dunlop, Jim Orr, Cameron Rose (for half the time) and me. We walked the length of the main street in our ward.

A-boards, wonky pavements, bins/rubbish, bollards, bus shelters, railings, other street furniture, etc were discussed and, where at fault, noted for action. Kathy Evans reported back on the action she took. We had plans and problems explained to us, particularly about the repaving of the most North-Easterly section, which is to be done in the Caithness flags. It seems that in places the pavement is not strong enough to hold the weight of them because of basements etc. However, Alan assured me they will find a way and it will be done in a timely fashion.

There was talk of getting another mural or graffiti art area done in the Tesco vennel. Ideas and funding ideas welcome. Hilary may be heading that up?

- 3. Bike Storage-**You have all seen the letter submitted to Lesley Hinds and other members of the Transport and Environment Committee on our behalf, in support of the cycle storage scheme being proposed by the bike team, on the strength of their excellent trial. I have had a "noted" reply from Ian Perry.

Council staff reductions has meant the loss of 2 cycle officers, including the Team's leader, Chris Brace. We need to keep reminding the Council, and perhaps even more the Scottish Government, that we really notice the detrimental effects of the cuts.

- 4. A-Boards-**Steve Burgess checked into the matter, as promised, and came up with the regulations the Council is working to (that we have been aware of but I am still not entirely convinced that the Council ever actually validated them!). He concluded that it is therefore a matter of enforcement-or lack of it, which is where we knew we were...So he suggested that we submit a request at the SCNP meeting for the SCNP to request the Council do a report into A-boards. (such a thing was done in about 2005 as the precursor to the regulations that may or may not be passed!) We were too late to get it on the agenda for the SCNP meeting but a Question could be asked at this meeting, so we may have David Wood going to do just that as we have our meeting. Watch this space...

- 5. Buccleuch St Bus Shelter-** Jim Orr is disappointed that this has not been removed yet. I would like to suggest some Direct Action!....To be discussed?

- 6. Meadows Festival stall-** (4th June) This seemed to be worthwhile, particularly as the excellent tent space was all provided for us free! Good connections were made with some members of the public and it was interesting comparing notes with other CC members

We were fairly sparsely manned and it would have been good to have a banner or some sign saying who we were. We can get a general "Community Councils" one from the Council for free. Should we have one particular to us? If so, could someone make it?

Thanks to Philip and Tim for setting up. The maps are great and the info we had was just right.

- 7. Invited Speakers-**I invited Ruth Davidson and Andy Wightman to come and meet us and talk with/to us. Both have accepted! I have tentatively booked Ruth for October and Andy for November. I have said I will get back after our meeting to confirm and to let them know what we are looking for. I think we agreed it would be good to publicise their visits to the whole community. I know that Tollcross CC would like to be invited too. We may wish to get a bigger space?
I have not yet asked the Convenor of the Regulatory Committee (Gavin Barrie?) to come and speak to us, which would be appropriate to promote the A-board issue, I think.
- 8. Meetings-**Gloria, Dora and I are all attending the Civic Forum meeting on Tues 7th at the City Chambers.
I am going to the EACC meeting on Thursday the 9th.
- 9. Consultations-**We have had notification for several of these, often with little time to organise ourselves, or else the information is insufficient to understand what it really is we are being asked. We missed responding to the Late Hours Catering Review because of this. We will hopefully feel more informed about the Music is Audible one. Perhaps we need another committee/ subgroup of people who will look at these as they come in?
- 10.Planning issues-**We also need more support for this committee. There have been a couple of planning issues discussed amongst us-India Buildings, the Frontage/Signage on the cornershop on Montague St. Gloria responded to this one-thank you Gloria-but it is rather overwhelming!
- 11.Grant applications-** Several of these opportunities get thrown our way every month, but it is extremely difficult to take advantage of them, especially as the deadlines are so short. As with consultations and planning issues, I pass on the information as I see it to whomever it seems appropriate, but this feels inadequate. For example, the Waste Action Grants promotion had about 10 days to apply when I saw it.
- 12.Barbara standing down/ the need for more people to be involved-**Barbara has decided to stand down because of family commitments. She is sorry to do this but feels there would be a place for someone else who could attend and commit more time. She would like to stay in touch and to help out from home in whatever ways she can. I think she will return when her life permits. We do need to encourage more people to come forward. I have been talking to a few possible candidates-we should all do this. I have been in touch with the university again to try to get some student representation. Moira Gibson is attending a meeting this week with the person in a new, relevant post and will let us know if they are interested in joining us. I have also written to Sheona Lawson to see if she has any other ideas but I have not heard back directly. (She may also be attending the meeting Moira is going to so is waiting for the outcome.)
I have also asked someone to be the Minutes Sec but she has not let me know her decision yet. I have the name of the person Tollcross have hired to do this and I have a sample of his work.
- 13.Some reflections after one month as Chair-**I am pleased about the SCC's successful communication events. However, although everyone is very supportive, I am finding it rather time consuming and frustrating as Chair, and feel I can't actually do anything because so much time is spent in just dealing with e-mails. As already mentioned, the short turnaround times makes it all the worse. I think there were about 150 e-mails. I cannot adequately deal with all of them. I am making judgements and disregarding some altogether. I hope this is ok with you. I am happy to hear advice or make some group decision about what is worth taking note of and what is not. I also wonder how you feel about how much I am firing your way? Thank you for your patience!