



## Newsletter, Spring 2017

### Problem with your stair lighting?

The City of Edinburgh Council used to look after lighting in common stairs, but with austerity and cuts that has gone. Only Council tenants get their stair lighting maintained now. Lighting maintenance is essential for a safe and pleasant stair. If lights fail it can be dangerous and frightening. Every stair needs to have some sort of mechanism for lighting maintenance, but we know many haven't. Often it's difficult to get everyone on a stair to agree and pay up, especially if there are absentee landlords. We have been trying to get the Council to do something about this, but haven't had much success yet. If you've had problems, please let us know – it will help us when we talk to councillors and officials

### Have you seen our website?

[www.sccedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.sccedinburgh.org.uk) is the place to go for the latest news about your community council. Here you can find all the details of our meetings – agendas, minutes and other papers, and who's who on the Southside Community Council, plus other information about our area and on Council services, and links to other useful sites.

Can't find what you want? Let us know and we'll see what we can do. Write to the [webmaster@sccedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@sccedinburgh.org.uk)

### Please get in touch

We would love to hear from you, especially if you have some good ideas to share, or have had problems you think we should know about.

- How to involve more people in the community – are you isolated and lonely?
- Problems you see in the area and what you think the solutions are.
- Bright ideas for making the Southside a better place

The best way of contacting us is by email – [chair@sccedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:chair@sccedinburgh.org.uk).

If you don't use email, you can write to us at the Nelson Hall, 5 Spittalfield Crescent, Edinburgh EH8 9QZ

### Meet our Chair – Tim Pogson

Tim has lived in the Southside for xx years. In his day job he ??? His passion is for .....

### Planning Issues

Every week we have a good look at the list of planning applications published by the Council. Sometimes we comment on applications. Things that concern us are

- Too many of the shops turned into food and drink establishments.
- An imbalance in the types of new housing being built.
- Too much advertising

Are there planning issues that trouble you? If so please let us know.

### Bins

The new schedule of bin collections is now published. Most people in the area use the communal bins, so this is not a concern, but quite a few of us have individual wheelie bins, 3 of them. Landfill, recycling, and garden waste. The collection schedule has just got more complicated by the introduction of garden waste collections only every 3 weeks, while landfill and recycling are on a two weekly cycle. We will have to keep our wits about us to make sure we put the bins out on the right day. See [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bindays](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bindays) for all the details.

## Come to a meeting!

Our meetings are all open to the public – you are welcome to come along and meet us, and hear what we have to say on issues that concern us all.

We meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, except in July, August and December.

7:00 pm at the Nelson Hall, Spittalfield Crescent (junction of St Leonards Street and Bernard Terrace.)

### Pavement clutter

Do you have problems walking down the street? Dodging past all the A boards, commercial waste bins, Council litter bins, bus shelters, tables and chairs outside cafes, shop produce spilling out onto the pavement, temporary traffic signs, and so on. We think the Council should take things in hand and make it easier for us to make our way along the pavements. They did well in ridding us of lots of the bigger commercial waste bins, but we think there's more work to do

### Neighbourhood Environmental Programme – Roads Capital Projects

Every year the Council sets aside a certain amount of money for projects brought forward by the community for improvements to our roads and pavements. This year we have put forward a number of ideas including:

- A pedestrian crossing for Bernard Terrace near the St Leonards Street junction.
- Removal of railings (to be replaced by bollards if necessary.)
- A dropped kerb in Dumbiedykes.
- Improvements to the west end of West Newington Place.

### Roads (and potholes!)

We were pleased to see East Preston Street resurfaced, but very disappointed that the junction area with Newington Road was not included. The road surface there is very poor, leading to bumpy bus rides, and water and debris being thrown up onto passers-by. Many of us have been soaked by a passing bus, and although it is good that we have lots of buses, they are very heavy, and need well-constructed roads and proper foundations at bus stops. We know the Council budget is very stretched but we think it is a false economy to keep on patching little bits of roadwav.



Community Day last year

### Licensing and noise problems

Recently the City of Edinburgh Council made some changes to licensing policy about the noise regulations. It used to be that pubs and clubs etc. playing loud music had to ensure the music was not **audible** in neighbouring properties. Under the new rules, licensed premises can ask for that to be changes so that noise is not **an audible nuisance** in neighbouring properties. There is a big difference between the two, and we are worried that people troubled by noisy neighbours will have great difficulty in getting anything done about it. The new criterion seems so much more subjective, and if an inspector doesn't think the noise is a nuisance, nothing will be done.

Do you have noisy neighbours? How have you got on complaining? We think everyone has the right to peace and quiet in their own homes. We know people like loud music in clubs, but places need to be properly soundproofed so neighbours are not disturbed.

We, with other Community Councils, went along to the Licensing Board to say this, but our viewpoint was outvoted.

We would love to hear your stories – if you've had trouble with noisy neighbours please tell us about it. That will strengthen our hand next time we talk to the city Council about this.