



Who we are:

The community council is your first layer of democracy. We hope to represent the people of Southside, and reflect their views and aspirations to the City of Edinburgh Council, and also to our MSPs and MP. In the paragraphs below we explain how we are seeking to fulfil that role.

Come and meet us:

All community council meetings are open to the public, so you are most welcome to come to a meeting and tell us your views and concerns. Meetings are held in the Gray Room, Nelson Hall, Spittalfield Crescent EH8 9QZ (on the corner of Bernard Terrace and St Leonards Street). Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, except July, August and December, and start at 6:45 pm.

City Council reorganisation:

The City Council has recently been through a reorganisation process, and the city is now divided into four Localities to which certain powers, responsibilities and duties have been devolved. We are in the South East Locality. Under the old organisation community councils were given a voice, and we are trying to make sure that this remains to be so. There are still some details to be worked out as to how the Localities will operate, and our Chair, Tim Pogson, has been in the forefront of negotiations making sure community councils are properly represented.

Planning:

The control of development in the city is an important aspect of local government. Any development needs permission through the planning process. The community council is a statutory consultee in this process. We examine all applications that affect our area, and decide whether or not to comment. We also keep an eye open for any unauthorised developments,

which have been carried out without the necessary permissions, and report these to the planning enforcement team. If you are concerned about any developments, actual or proposed, do please contact us and we will see if we can help.

Rubbish:

One of our continuing concerns is the refuse collection system. Household waste is managed by the city council, commercial waste mainly by private contractors. Shortcomings in both these processes have left the streets cluttered and dirty, and we are constantly making representation to our city councillors to try and get things improved. However we recognise that the solutions lie partly in our own hands. Proper management of our own household waste will help keep things clean and tidy, so here are a few suggestions.

Recycling

Every household needs a system. Do you have one? You need a separate container for each type of waste, so a recycling box is a must in every kitchen. Everyone in the household needs to understand how to use it, what to put in it. The City Council has some advice on its website telling us what they want in communal recycling bins, which is -

Yes please

- Paper, cardboard and envelopes
- Cans/tins
- Drink cartons
- Clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Empty aerosols and foil

(All these to go in to the green lidded mixed recycling bins)

No thanks

- Plastic bags or glass (there are separate bins for glass)
- Wrappers, crisp bags or photographs
- Polystyrene
- Plastic toys or plant pots

Too much stuff?

Don't just chuck it – somebody might be looking for it. Try Freecycle (groups.freecycle.org/group/EdinburghUK), SHRUB (www.shrubcoop.org), or a charity shop like Bethany (Phone 0131 561 8904 to have furniture uplifted or see their website at www.bethanychristiantrust.com). The City Council has a free uplift service for furniture in good condition. Phone 0800 0665 820 or see www.recycleforscotland.com. As a last resort you can arrange a special uplift from the waste services, but it will cost you. (See the City Council website, www.edinburgh.gov.uk)

Security:

Each month at our meetings we have a report from the local community Police officer. What we hear is sometimes quite alarming, with stories of break-ins, vandalism, and drug misuse. They also offer advice to us which we can pass on to you.

If you live in a tenement, as most of us do, sharing a stairway and street door with a number of other flats, the common areas are often neglected, and this attracts crime. The best thing to do is to get to know your neighbours, the people you share a stair with, so you can make sure the common areas are properly looked after. We are a mixed community, with some long term residents, and some staying here only for a year or two. This makes things more difficult, as it always takes a while for new people to find out how we do things. We are also a mixture of owner occupiers and people in rented accommodation, which creates more problems as landlords aren't always as quick to react to situations as we might hope. However we do need to work out how to maintain properties in good order. The main door onto the street is an important item. If it is covered in graffiti, and the lock doesn't work, then it is an open invitation to crime. Property owners and tenants need to get together to fix things so the door always locks, and it looks well kept.

Contact us

Visit our website at www.sccedinburgh.org.uk

Email us at chair@sccedinburgh.org.uk

Come to a meeting!

Our Website: If you visit our website at www.sccedinburgh.org.uk you can find out who is on the community council, and exactly what area of the city is defined as “Southside”. You can also see all the papers for past meetings, including the minutes, and see the dates of future meetings. A few days before each meeting you can also see papers for the meeting coming up, including the agenda and any reports from office bearers, or other papers to be discussed. You can also sign up to our email list, which will mean you will receive occasional emails from us – mainly notices of forthcoming meetings.

Roadworks

It's lovely to have a nice smooth, pothole free main road through the Southside. All the disruption in the spring seems worth it when we see the much improved facilities. We were pleased that the city roads engineers contacted us before the work began to ask us about what needs to be done to make things better along the street, in addition to the resurfacing work. We were keen that the pedestrian crossing near the end of Lutton Place should be upgraded to make it safer – we had reports of several scary incidents there. We were also keen to have railings removed as we think that rather than protecting people, they were dangerous. We were not so happy with the loss of a bus stop on Clerk Street, but were unable to persuade Lothian Buses to keep it.