

Southside Community Council (SCC) Secretary's report, November-December 2015

In addition to emails about several matters that are in the News section of the website, the following matters have been communicated.

- 1) **Gifford Park.**
 - a) Following an email from Colin Christison (Southside Association, SA) who noticed cars driving through since the bike corridor was created, efforts were made to repair the bollard to prevent this, and this has now been done. A 'no motorised vehicles' to prevent cars, taxis and motor cycles using this route, and double yellow lines to prevent parking across this 'National Cycle Route 1', have been requested.
 - b) Trade bins have now been moved to improve the bike corridor and the general environment.
- 2) An **embargo on commercial bins** throughout the area is promised, and should come into force in the New Year.
- 3) Colin Christison forwarded an information newsletter and timeline for the redevelopment of the **Homebase site**.
- 4) **Police Scotland** sent a message asking communities to be aware of the UK threat level which is at Severe, meaning an attack is highly likely, and remain vigilant, including to hate crimes. Anyone with concerns or information about suspicious activity should contact the Police on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or in an emergency dial 999.
- 5) An announcement was forwarded about a drop-in **Meet the Funders event** — a free public market-place event providing access to funding information for community projects, groups or voluntary organisations. It is an opportunity for groups to discuss their ideas with potential funders and collect a range of information about possible sources of grant aid. PORTOBELLO TOWN HALL Portobello High Street, Thursday, 3rd December 2015 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm. There is no need to book.
- 6) **Street clutter and hazards.** An update was sent by Kathy Evans concerning action against advertising banners, A boards, and unauthorized tables on pavements in the area. These should be targeted as part of a Roads initiative. In the meantime, several businesses have been visited, given application packs to apply for the needed permissions, and told that furniture should not be placed out side until permissions have been granted.
- 7) The Southside Association developed proposals for the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership's **Neighbourhood Roads Capital Programme**. As the deadline is 31st December 2015, it was agreed at the November meeting of the SCC that we would not put forward our own proposals, but would coordinate with the SA and propose their ideas for support. The proposals are as follows:
 - a) That the pavement area on the east of Nicolson Street, between Drummond Street and Varsity Music, be upgraded to achieve compatibility with the areas already laid in Caithness stone by the Council. This would provide a much needed enhancement for this part of the street.
 - b) That remedial work be done to the pavements from Hill Place to West Richmond Street, also on the east of Nicolson Street.

These areas were viewed on a walkabout with Cllrs Burgess and Orr on 30 September, and it was agreed that numerous trip hazards and inconsistent paving need urgent attention.

8) Bus shelters in Clerk St: (from SA)

- a) Photos were taken of the bus shelter outside the Dog House pub, 18 – 24 Clerk St. to show that there is very little room and the yellow plate isn't fixed and is beside a metal plate, making it difficult for a wheel chair user to manage. It was suggested that it might be replaced with a smaller model of bus shelter and that the various plates and other muddle should be attended to. Gary Wilson (Acting Professional Officer - Public Transport & Accessibility) responded that the contractor visited the site at his request, and that the work should now be complete. He also explained that the newly installed shelters on Clark Street have been turned to face the road in order to encourage bus passengers to wait within the shelter, rather than across the whole footway area, as previously, which did not allow for a clear passage for pedestrians.
- b) He was asked about where else we should expect new bus shelters to replace those on the main corridor between South Bridge and Minto Street, and whether any new ones are planned (and, if so, on what time scale). The reply should be copied to the SA and SCC.