

Southside Community Council Environment sub group
December 7th

Present Kaaren Haughton
Joan Carter
Theadora

In attendance Hilary McDowell: Southside Assoc.

1. For the first meeting it was decided to hear from Hilary what the S.A. have been doing over the past few years since the demise of the CC and see where the gaps are and what the small group might reasonably undertake.
2. Hilary gave an resume of the campaigns undertaken
 - 2.1 The Odeon cinema this was a successful campaign to prevent the demolition of this architecturally important building.
 - 2.2 Reduction on the sale of legal highs; following representation to the CEC and the co-operation of, Community Safety Officer, Kathy Evans.
 - 2.3 Week of action for the cleaning of the gullies and drains this was some time ago and was an onerous task; worth doing again.
 - 2.4 Road choices Hilary ensured that there was an area in the Southside nominated for these funds (40K) However Montague St., which was the nomination of the SSA, was not chosen
 - 2.5 Mural in Gifford Park this was undertaken following Hilary finding out that there was money in the budget for artwork (5K)
 - 2.6 Walk about to look at all the environment issues in the area with Councillors and Council officials. Next Walk about will be in May SCC will participate.
 - 2.7 Refurbishment of Nicholson Sq and St Patricks Sq; these were done without a consultation process they are improved, sadly not done well.
3. Ongoing issues
 - Bus shelters: poorly and incorrectly placed; crowding the pavements and the wrong way around making access difficult and no defense against the weather and spray from the road.
 - Road works: Preston Street
 - Commercial bins; the CEC has decreed that these will be removed from public thoroughfares as of 6th January will this be monitored by the Environmental wardens?
 - Steps outside Edinburgh Bargain stores are a hazard and cause congestion by the bus shelter
4. Other key areas of work: The Meadows: The Southside Community Council covers the half of The Meadows used for events. The SA has endeavoured to stop the CEC over using the facility, other parks have a limitation on the time, 16 days, that events can use the recreational space this does not seem to apply to the meadows. SCC is represented on the

MABLAG group. Linda Hendry is the contact person. Also the friends of the Meadows is another group.

The group thanked Hilary for her comprehensive overview of the issues.

5. Following Hilary's presentation the group identified some of the most pressing issues for the group:

5.1 The Engine Shed; there doesn't seem to be any plan for the brewery to start work. What is happening the building? Apparently the company has 3 years before it needs to develop the tender accepted by the CEC.

What are the concerns of the local residents?

Has there been any assessment of the extra traffic in St Leonards Lane?

H&S issues; what measures will the proposed distillery take to ensure the safety of the residents.

5.2 Bins; a reassessment is required re the ratio of recycling and residual waste bins; there needs to be a greater emphasis on recycling. Also, information should be sent to all residents, especially students, at the beginning of the academic year, re the use of the bins. (no point doing it in June as the students are leaving)

5.3 A boards, there is a proliferation these on the main streets, they do not comply with the CEC policy on A boards. Hilary to circulate the policy.

5.4 Pavements, many are in a parlous state, also, new slabs have been damaged by lorries parking on them. Can we have bollards on Salisbury Road

5.5 Parking; design how this could be changed to create traffic calming this has been done in Gladstone terrace.

Marking the street with designated permit parking spaces this would maximise on the space available.

5.6 Bicycles: As a part of the environmental Green City policy; The CEC is committed to more people using bicycles in the city. This has consequences for high density areas like the SS. What is required is more safe parking for bikes, bikes are currently attached to every lamp post in the area, they are vulnerable to theft, damage and vandalism, they are an obstruction on the pavements and a hazard for pedestrians

Bike lockers; as piloted on the Meadows and Marchmont areas. Can we have these on the Southside? They could take up parking spaces or single yellow line areas.

Many stairs do not have the room for bike storage and are a fire hazard.

The group felt that all of these issues could not undertaken or addressed effectively.

It was decided to discuss with the SCC adopting 4 tasks.

1. Bins
2. A boards possibly have
3. Bicycle racks on the streets
4. Bus shelters

Action points: Ask the council for the rota for street cleaning
Contact Alan Dunlop and Derek Roden re the road repairs
CEC re the Engine shed
Lothian buses re the bus shelters