

Councillor's Report (J Orr) - Southside Community Council – 11th April 2016

SKELF Park

There has been a significant amount of unhappiness among residents of Dumbiedykes about the tree felling in February and the perceived lack of consultation and communication. At two recent public meetings in the Braidwood I decided to acknowledge that we the council could have done better. I also noted that the lack of a community council and a residents association hindered the communications greatly, but the good news is that we now have both. The two meetings were of the new residents association which is yet to be formally constituted. Perhaps once this happens that they will find a delegate and request that they be co-opted onto SCC? Apart from the Skelf, parking and reduced bus services are two important issues for many of those living in Dumbiedykes or around Holyrood Road.

Personally I remain confident that the Skelf will be a big success and congratulate the BBG volunteers for their efforts. There remains anti-social behaviour in those woods but it is much reduced. It is worth noting that the adjacent Craggs centre is gaining a fantastic Scotland-wide reputation for excellence as a model for a social enterprise-run leisure facility. It is busy and very well organised.

Council's Transformation Programme

This is ongoing. A lot of officers are under pressure and may find themselves in redeployment. As an example, Community Safety Officer numbers are being reduced from 6 currently down to only 2, although there are other posts which will be created to mitigate this "cut", i.e. it is a *restructuring* but one with significantly reduced numbers.

A lot of officers who know the area and their jobs well (like David Doig (Local Environment Manager) and Euan Calder (Community Waste Officer)) have already taken voluntary redundancy/early retirement.

Holyrood Park Distillery

The planning application for the redevelopment of the site was submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council today (1/4/16).

South Centra£ Decides – Participatory Budgeting

I hope that all the community councillors are aware of this big opportunity to influence local spending priorities and that they will get their friends and neighbours along. I've helped Grange Prestonfield CC to co-ordinate two separate £2.5k bids for improvements to Newington and Grange cemeteries.



METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 25 NICOLSON SQUARE, SATURDAY, 30th APRIL 2016, 11.00 to 3.00

<<The South Central Neighbourhood Partnership has over £200,000 worth of funding available for distribution in 2016/17 and YOU, as a resident of South Central, are asked to Voice your Choice and

decide which projects get what. Anyone over the age of 8 is eligible to vote so long as they live in South Central. The money is split into three different "pots" which are described more on linked pages. This type of approach is known as Participatory Budgeting or PB as it is often known as - it's a system where local people decide on local money.>>

Future of the Southside Community Centre

Correspondence will be with SCC office bearers from Morag Innes, Chair of the Southside Community Centre Association, and who has started an informal consultation on the future of the centre. It may well be necessary for there to be more community and volunteer involvement perhaps under a charitable trust. Such a trust would "take on the responsibility for the long term lease of both buildings and develop a long term strategic direction, purpose and business development plan for both valued community assets".

Local Events

- Newington Churches Together have organised a hustings for mainly Edinburgh Southern candidates (not Edinburgh Central which covers most of the SCC area). See below.
- Pedal on Parliament is on 23rd April (gather at 12 in Meadows).
- Lots of Science Festival events at Summerhall and ECCI (<http://edinburghcentre.org/events.html>)

Scottish Parliament Election
2016
ELECTION HUSTINGS
EDINBURGH SOUTHERN

SUNDAY 10 April
4.00pm to 5.30pm
COMMUNITY CHURCH
41A SOUTH CLERK STREET
EDINBURGH EH8 9NZ

Chairman: The Revd Scott S. McKenna
Mayfield Salisbury Church of Scotland

CONSERVATIVE - Miles Briggs
GREEN - Andy Wightman
LABOUR - Daniel Johnson
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - Pramod Subbaraman
RISE: Scotland's Left Alliance - Colin Fox
SNP - Jim Eadie
UKIP - tbc

Newington Churches Together - www.newingtonchurches.org.uk