

Southside Community Council Chair's report, January 2016

1. Our constitution has now been ratified by city of Edinburgh Council. I received a request for justification for the changes we had made to the model constitution, and these have been accepted.
2. I received information about grants available from Tesco for community projects. Full details at <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/Pages/large-grants-tes> . Probably not of any use to us just now, as we don't have any projects in mind that fit their criteria, but worth bearing in mind for the future.
3. Fran Gifford has emailed me to let me know about her efforts to get some trees planted in Lutton Place. There are several places where trees have been lost, and Fran is asking the developers at the former Homebase site if they can provide replacements. A sort of 'planning gain'. She promised to keep us informed about progress.
4. Tim Pogson writes to say he has been invited to a meeting about the new Localities scheme. The Council is now moving to implement the new Locality operating model. The four Localities – South West, North West, South East, North East – will each have its own priorities to deliver improved services. To help do this the Transformation Programme are holding an initial four events, where staff and partners can come together to learn more about the new approach and help shape what this can look like in practice. Our meeting, for South East, will be on Tuesday 2 February, 14:00 – 16:30 at the Faith Mission. Tim can't go, so perhaps someone else would like to go and report back.
5. Roz Currie, Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Tommy Sheppard MP, wrote to ask if she could attend the meeting. I replied that she could, and invited her to speak briefly to us.
6. Jo Scott, Southside Association, has been attending meetings about the redevelopment of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Astley Ainsley Hospital. These meetings with NHS Lothian are designed to keep Community Councils informed, and we could send a representative. See separate paper with the minutes of the last meeting.
7. Former Odeon Cinema: I was contacted this morning (11/1/16) by Rob Arthur who runs the cinema division of G1, the new owners of 7 Clerk St. He is keen to keep the local community updated with plans and progress. I am meeting him tomorrow and will report back.