

Southside Community Council AGM  
Environment group report

Environment group  
Kaaren Haughton  
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Nicholas Oddy

The group has had four meetings in the 6 months since the SCC convened it. What is clear for the whole SCC is the whole of the balance and the harmony of the Southside is under threat by a range of internal degradation of the environment by litter including gum and dog fouling; and external threats of inappropriate development. As can be seen in the minutes of the group it was decided to focus on areas that we felt we could affect some change by working with other parties.

Dora Lola-Luz undertook to develop a dialogue with the developers Ogilvies and Unite. Dora has contacted both developers in relation to noise control and the UNITE project manager has been more responsive and accommodated the request of delaying the drilling until 8:30 instead of 7am as council regulations currently allow them. The Ogilvie people have been less responsive and more defensive when similar requests have been made but have "more or less" made some compromises. It is also noticeable that Ogilvie do not work on Saturdays but am not sure how long this will last and whether it is because our tenements are much closer to the site that the Unite ones.

I have also emailed both developers and asked whether they would consider helping with some community contributions but had no response whatsoever.

I have also liaised with Maureen Allen and the parent council at Preston Street Primary and we submitted an application to the Scotsrail fund for which we have passed the first phase and are expecting to hear by the end of the May 2016."

Kaaren and Joan have undertaken an audit of the main arterial road on the Southside. A boards: there were nearly 70 A boards on the single stretch, there is a current Council policy re the height, placement, distance from the curb of these boards (though vendors seem to be unaware of this)  
There was a positive response to the idea of a small levy for vendors to have an A board. Outside tables; the vendors have to display a permit, several do not have either current or an existing permit  
As far as we could establish no vendor has been asked to remove an A board or apply for an up to date permit.

Refuse and recycling:

Outreach to Council officers re the refuse and recycling policy and practice, has been undertaken. Minutes are available on the website.

The purpose of these meetings is to develop a good working partnership working with the Council.

It may be an enormous task to encourage the residents of the Southside, including students, to treat the environment as a resource for the whole community that can improve the quality of life for all the people.

Kaaren Haughton