

Secretary's report for September 2016 meeting.

June 16: A Nelson Hall BOOKING FORM for regular lets was sent to Scott Wilkins at the SSCC with a request to ensure that we have the room until 9pm in the future.

A list of the postal and email addresses of SCC members was compiled and sent to all members after corrections.

Also a list of funding opportunities, with approximate dates of their deadlines.

Emails about funding opportunities during July-September

June 29: Community Choices Fund targeted at work in deprived areas by community groups and local authorities, including employability initiatives, projects that encourage volunteering, and training for young people. Probably not suitable for us to apply.

July 1, 2016 email: Fair Food Transformation Fund to help everyone in Scotland have access to healthy, nutritious food without needing emergency food aid, ending food poverty and the need for emergency food aid.

June 30, 2016 email: Community Choices Fund, [Applications close on 29 July. For more information, including how to apply and further guidance for community groups and community councils, visit \[www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommunityChoicesFund\]\(http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommunityChoicesFund\).](#)

[20 August: Get Up and Go AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2016](#), Closing date Friday 23rd September 2016

Invitations to events received

Requested and obtained subscription to the EVOC list to receive regular notification of training courses etc (<http://www.evoc.org.uk>)

August 3: FW_ Community Safety Action Group meeting - Tuesday, 9th August @ 2.00 pm

Workshop - Specifications for Parks' Events Tender 5 July 2016: KH and SR will attend.

August 5th: Event **Celebrating Diversity in Community Councils**, 11 August 2016, 6.00pm – 8.30pm, Royston Wardieburn Community Centre. The aim of the event is to increase the representation of BME communities in community councils and hosted jointly by ELREC- Diversity in Public Life project and the Granton & District Community Council.

August 8: Sessions to increase understanding of Hate Crime and Islamophobia

11 August: A meeting for community councils in the Edinburgh local authority area about Youth Justice will be held on Wednesday 31st August 2016

25 August: EACC Q&A and Executive Committee Meeting 3rd Sept 2016 (TP to represent us).

31 August: Edinburgh Civic Forum Tuesday 6 September at 6.00 pm, Business Centre, City Chambers (next meeting is Tuesday 6 December at 4.00 pm)

31 August: South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, Monday.
File SCNP - 05 September 2016.pdf. TP will attend.

Consultations etc.

Following a suggestion from Jo Scott, I arranged for the SCC to be listed with the council's Consultation Hub, so that we receive notification of consultations.

July 1, 2016: Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan Review

https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/edinburgh-oldandnewtowns-managementplan-review/consult_view

July 8: July 8: Information summarizing Grange Road Cycling and Walking Improvement Proposals, part of the Council's 'QuietRoutes' network, aiming to provide safe and convenient cycling routes and improved conditions for pedestrians. A stakeholder consultation 'drop-in' session was held on the Wednesday 20th July at Newington Library.

July 18th: The SCC sent a RESPONSE to the proposed new Public-Health-Act Guidance concerning loud music (file SCC response letter).

August 11: Edinburgh Airport Airspace Change Programme, responses before the deadline of 23:59 on 12th September 2016. Fran Gifford sent her response and some helpful suggestions. A letter from the SCC was sent making similar points.

Sept. 2: Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC) events to increase the representation of Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in the community councils (CCs) across the Edinburgh and the Lothians. Venue: ELREC conference room, 14 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH Booking link: www.communitycouncils.scot/workshops-to-encourage-diversity-in-community-councils.html

Other emails and letters sent

Letter expressing concern about the danger that the Southside surgery will close. Sent Brian Houston, Chairman, Lothian NHS Board and Rob McCulloch-Graham, Chief Executive Integrated Joint Board (IJB), with copies to the University of Edinburgh, our councillors, MP and MSPs. The latest news, sent by Colin Christison, is that the GP surgery may be retained for a few years in order to give time to organise care within the neighbourhood.

Emails about the Meadows and Bruntsfield links

Meadows money and FoMBL (in Meadows folder).

- Letter to chair of the CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (file SCC letter re Meadows) about the failure to implement the committees decision to invest additional income from events being held on the Meadows into the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.
- Correspondence about the representation of Community Councils in the FoMBL. Robin Morris, Chair of Merchiston CC is its Treasurer, and Andy Devenport from Tollcross is on the committee (both are individual FoMBL members), but no-one from Southside or Marchmont and Sciennes is currently on the committee or an organisational member of FOMBL. Committee members are also required to be Trustees of the Charity, as well as being individual members.

August 26: P McD sent a file (CEC Questions and Answers re Meadows, stair lights) with responses to questions put to the Transport & Environment committee. Councillor Melanie Main asked the same question as in our letter (which received an unsatisfactory reply, see June minutes). In summary, the answers were as follows: **(1)** What was the financial return on the use of the Meadows for the Festival period in? **Answer** From the 2015 Festival period £34,826 for the Circus Hub and £7238 for the Festival Funfair.

Question (2) What investment from the 2015 summer income has been made of the into the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links? **Answer**

- £4,826 to cover overtime for Park Rangers during August.
- £27,500 Wall Repairs
- £75,000 Footpath Upgrades (Jawbone Walk & Coronation walk)
- £75,000 Boroughloch Walk Cycle Path Upgrade
- £1500 New notice board Leamington Walk
- £1000 Bulbs
- £2500 New seats
- £500 Golf interpretation panel
- £7000 Playpark improvements
- £22,361 Tree planting/works

Other emails received (generally forwarded to SCC members, or planning sub-committee, as appropriate)

June 29: NP Spring 2016 newsletter

July 1: Police Scotland _ South East Area Command update. I replied requesting written reports in the future, so that police presence at SCC meetings might be cut to once every 2-3 months. Mark.Innes@scotland.pnn.police.uk replied saying that he would respond after August 21, but he has not yet done so.

July 4, 2016: Notice of Car Free Sunday on Sunday 25 September 2016

Copies of emails about **problems in the East Parkside area**, from the owners association.

- June 28: Failure to lock the west gates of the Innocent Railway Tunnel after the Great Scottish Walk & Run Festival
- July 8: Failure to empty all the Green Recycling Bins every "Green Bin Day"
- August 5: St Leonard's Street - 20mph sign facing wrong direction, street clutter (commercial waste bins on the public footpath)
- August 2: Damage to Bin Store Doors

August 2: Community Safety Action Group meeting - Tuesday, 9th August, 2.00 pm

August 20: Documents with plans for a church hall in Chapel Street

August 20: Information about council staff roles from Hilary McDowell.

Kathy Evans will cover community safety, neighbours, families, sheltered housing etc for south and city centre. The new transport and environmental manager, to replace David Doig, and also dealing with environmental wardens and parks, is Steven Cuthill (529 5043, email Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk), who apparently knows this area of work.

Sept. 4: Emails about a proposal to close Edinburgh's very high quality Cleft (palette etc) Surgery programme at the Sick Kids Hospital.

Correspondence about new arrangements for stair lights

Emails to the council requesting that they consider a paid-for service along the lines of the efficient previous one were ignored (replies merely re-stated that the service was ending).

Many email exchanges with electricians established that some stairs can potentially have LED lights installed, while others cannot. Some electricians are developing re-lamping services, but it is inefficient and costly to call an electrician in when a lamp fails, so stairs will need to agree to regular replacement of all lamps every year or 2, depending on the lights they have.

The information was shared with other Community Councils, who had asked me to gather facts. Information was put on the SCC web site.

July 1, 2016: email to PMAS (property Managers Association Scotland) asking for leaflets or information sheets that can help owners of tenement flats to organise a factoring or similar service, so that proper maintenance is done. No reply was received.

I also gathered info on the proportions of owner-occupiers versus other residents, because it seems to me that, if owner-occupiers are too few, the burden falling on them to manage maintenance and repairs becomes unbearable. Also, if the city keep encouraging HMOs, students (non council-tax payers) and tourists (party flats and AirB&B flats, which we were told don't pay business taxes, although they are making profits), at the expense of owner-occupiers, the council tax revenue falls, burdening owner-occupiers, and it seems wrong that owner-occupiers should be the

main financial support and yet have to do the work themselves. Perhaps a campaign needs to be started to get some fairness?

August 26: P McD sent a file (CEC Questions and Answers re Meadows, stair lights) with responses to questions put to the Transport & Environment committee. It is stated that requests for details of current fittings and the option to change these have been answered to owners' satisfaction, which is not true for the letters I sent as SCC secretary. It is true that we have been advised to get electrical contractors, but this is unhelpful, as many do not do such jobs. The Trusted Traders people have been inundated with enquiries, and are unhappy with the situation (I have emails from them that make this clear).