



October 2025 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on October 15th, 2025
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Clive Preston (Chair); Tannis Dodd (Secretary); Nigel Clark; John Edward (Deputy Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Geoff Calder; Gregan Crawford; Christian Low.

Members of the Community: Bill Keil (Warriston Residents Association); Sandy Clark; Dan Thompson; Raymond Morgan; Rachel Lee; Anna Hodson; Antonia Rolph; Mairi Buchanan.

Ward Councilors and Member of Parliament: Cllr Max Mitchell; Cllr Hal Osler.

Apologies for absence: Pam Barnes; Peter Wilson CC; Alex Martin CC; Peter Chalmers; Cllr Vicky Nicholson; Miranda Hamilton.

CC Chair – Welcome from Clive Preston

Clive paid tribute to Penny Richardson, a previous Chair and long-term member of S&ICC as she sadly passed away at the end of September. She was very involved with licensing and a strong supporter of the Community Council. She will be sorely missed.

Minutes of the last meeting – approved

Matters Arising –

Broughton High – Clive is still waiting to hear back from them.

Max reported back that there is no Bye Law re maintaining pavements in front of your property.

Anti-graffiti paint on the new toilets – the toilets had been graffitied before they could apply the paint.

Max is still following up the license granted for Stockbridge Social Market off Portgower Place.

Max investigated the need to suspend bus stops/parking bays when works were occurring on the street and each situation is unique.

Discussion on Tram Consultation

Comments made by Miranda Hamilton (a resident in Clarendon Crescent) had been circulated prior to the meeting and there followed a general discussion about the proposed new tram routes, essentially did people agree with a north/south route being actioned and what is the view on the routes proposed. The overall view was that trams were a good thing for the City however the funding of them and disruption to the city while in construction should be considered.

Two routes are proposed – one is Ferry Road, up Orchard Brae and over the Dean Bridge, the second is Ferry Road then along the Roseburn Path. Concerns were raised about using the Dean Bridge route as the condition of the Dean Bridge is unknown and there would be little space for trams, cars, pedestrians and cyclists on the bridge. There was no support for the Dean Bridge option. It was felt that the Roseburn Path option was the preferred choice. However, concerns re loss of wildlife habitat due to increased noise, lighting and concrete were noted. It was noted that the cost of the project so far is £1m.

The consultation is open until 17th November 2025 if anyone wishes to make comments.

The Fringe Society – Antonia Rolph – Community and Engagements Officer for the Fringe Society

Antonia came to tell us about their new home in Infirmary Street which they hope to move into in March 2026. They want it to be a space used by the community of Edinburgh. There will be rehearsal spaces, artist spaces and workspaces available for people to use. They also plan to work with community groups who wish to use their space and make accessible to all. They are planning to have an area at the front where people can sit and chat. They will also have working spaces for workshops to continue the work they do with Edinburgh schools. The project is aiming to be as green as possible, and they intend to have a green space outside and potentially a green roof. The renovation is being done as sympathetically as possible and hope to maintain as many original features as possible.

The Fringe Society does a lot of access work such as access booking line, community ticket initiatives and other options open to people with issues. They have received funding from the UK Government so they will be able to charge minimal charges for the hiring of the spaces. The intention is very much to make it a space open to everyone and is an exciting new project for them.

Police

No report.

Councillor Updates

Cllr Hal Osler and Cllr Max Mitchell

There is a new larger bin on Hamilton Place and others are to be located in the area soon. There have been issues with the emptying of the bins in the area which is exacerbated by the number of takeaways in the Stockbridge area.

Cllrs Mitchell and Osler did a walkabout along the Water of Leith from Mackenzie Bridge to St Bernard's Well with senior council officers. The level of growth along there is way out of control causing damage to railings and walls. The Water of Leith Trust don't have the facilities to help in that area. Dean Terrace want to put their bin hub on the side of the railings rather than the roadside but in order for this to happen the area needs to be tidied up. They are hoping to make the path from Saunders Street to the Dean Bridge more accessible.

Dog fouling – there have been several complaints made recently, and they are working on getting new signage for alerting people to pick up their dog's poo.

A complaint has been made about a legal order to take away parking spaces in Warriston Crescent because of damage to a wall at the end of the street, despite many residents objecting to it.

Tables and Chairs licenses – there have been more complaints about the street furniture, but it is difficult to know how to manage it. There is a paper being prepared on this. Christian Low (licensing) has been researching this and there are 15 premises with outdoor tables and chairs, 9 of which are in an area of congestion. She is challenging the licenses of the cafes and bars to see if all are valid. Outdoor seating is considered good for the local businesses.

Cllr Jule Bandel has been on long term sick leave and questions are being raised as to what are the options after an extended period of absence.

Chair

Our AGM will be held at the start of next month's meeting.

Allocation of the Community Grants Fund – we were asked whether we wanted to change the way funds are granted to a participatory budget process. However, it was agreed to stick to the current way of allocating funds.

Living Rents Campaign – we were asked to sign a letter in support of their current campaign around Rogue Landlords in Edinburgh. The outcome of the discussion was that we would not sign the letter. Questions were raised as to the relevance of it in our area and issues of governance around controls of landlords. Cllr Osler said it was very difficult to go after private landlords and it would detract from the many housing issues in Edinburgh.

EACC are looking for nominations for key positions.

Secretary

Nothing to add

Treasurer - David Chamberlain

We have received our grant for this year and we have some funds available for small local projects.

Transport – Geoff Calder

Local resident Raymond Morgan asked us to note that the bus lane at the Goldenacre end of Inverleith Row is dangerous as it is so close to a very narrow pavement and he has concerns about the safety of it. Cllr Osler and Mitchell have been contacted about this and are going to meet Raymond to discuss.

Licensing and Planning – Christian Low

Licensing issues covered above.

Planning – 76 Inverleith Place – decision pending

Cata restaurant despite having had an enforcement notice are still operating as a restaurant.

Stockbridge Tap – as there are no material changes being done it does not need planning permission.

Environment – Peter Wilson

No report

Engagement and Inclusion – John Edward and Holly Harrison

No report

Community Grants – Devon Magliozzi

No report

AOB

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday November 19th, 2025, at 7.15pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend community council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject, please contact the S&ICC at stockbridgeandinverleith@gmail.com or visit our website www.stockbridgeandinverleithcc.org.uk