

Vice Chair's Report, 2nd February, 2022

- **Proposed student accommodation at East Newington Place:** Objection comment was submitted on behalf of SCC. Campaign to encourage lots of objection comments carried out by contacting groups and posting information and sample letters on the SCC website. 93 objections were submitted, so the application will go to full Planning Committee. Our Councillor on the Committee has been asked to ask the Committee for a site visit.
- **Chairing meeting of the 5 City Centre CCs with Festivals Edinburgh discussing "Festival City Vision to 2030":** On the 18th January it was SCC's turn to chair the meeting of the 5 City Centre CCs meeting. Having attended other meetings on this topic at earlier stages in the discussions or at a different level of planning, it was good to be part of this meeting. Julia Amour, Director, Festivals Edinburgh; Shona McCarthy, Chief Exec, Fringe Society; Donald Smith, Director of the Storytelling Festival, and James McVeigh, Festivals Edinburgh, met with 11 of representatives of the 5CCs. I have not received the Minutes yet, but it was an open and informative discussion. Although we agreed with the Principles outlined in their document as principles, we had some concerns still. We questioned the concept of "growth", and this was answered that it was being used in the context of the almost zero level of festivals during the pandemic. We were reassured on their commitments to being environmentally sustainable and the need to meet all the climate change, and other environmental commitments of the City and the Country. Appropriate and somewhat different redevelopment is what is being worked out and we heard some useful detail on that. We were also concerned with how enforcement of the good systems being put in place will occur. It was clear to all that this needs to involve more than a two-way discussion, and the Council needs to be very proactive (we discussed and endorsed Jo Mowat's pragmatic, "A Charter for Edinburgh" on this subject.) The presentations were all very relevant and showed awareness of the concerns. Common values were identified.
- **EACC EGM, 20th January:** attended this long and detailed editing of the EACC's constitution. The work was got through and the updated version should be ratified at February's meeting.
- **Holyrood distillery and relations with their neighbours:** This issue is being progressed. Steve Burgess and I had a meeting with the neighbours in one of their homes and we walked around the site. This was useful in the preparation of the face to face meeting, scheduled for the 7th February.