



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 299th meeting held on 28th May 2012 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Caroline Hosking, Peter McColl, Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Brenda Molony (*Portobello Reporter*), Eva Schonveld (PEDAL), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (PAS), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Leon Thompson, Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank Parents Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefield Residents).

Apologies: Archie Burns, Lawrence Marshall (Portobello Older People's Project), Andrew Patterson (Portobello Council of Churches).

In attendance: Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Sheila Gilmore MP, Katie Quinn (CEC), Cllr David Walker, Margaret Williamson (Portobello High School), Sgt. John Young (Safer Neighbourhood Team), and 25+ members of the public.

299.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

299.2 Police report

John Young summarised key points from the monthly police report previously circulated by email. There were 46 reported crimes in May, 14 of which related to just two incidents which had been solved; almost half of the rest involved vandalism and theft. There had been five house-breakings, and it was still important to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police. The beach and Promenade had been very busy in the recent warm weather but there had been no significant incidents there; the police would be running Operation Drift here as usual over the Summer, from 2nd July to 16th August. There would be a police roadshow at B&Q (Newcraighall) from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday 30th May to warn people of the dangers of doorstep crime and bogus callers. The report included details of cycle-marking events in Leith in June. Dates would also be made available during the Operation Drift initiative, with Cycle Marking and Crime Prevention advice being offered at the Promenade

The police were conducting their latest 'public perception survey' seeking peoples' views on the level of policing in their local area. The results at Ward level will allow the Force to identify areas for improvement locally, assist Community Policing Teams with their priorities, and enable the police to monitor the impact of their Community Commitment. Although the current priorities were outwith the Portobello/Joppa area, community officers Graham Pears and Scott McLennan continue to be based locally.

Caroline Hosking asked about excessive noise in the area of Westbank Street; Sgt. Young said that the police were aware of this, had instituted extra patrols in the area, and were in touch with the City Council licensing department about it. Maureen Child drew attention to a police leaflet titled 'Bike Menace', referring to anti-social/dangerous use of motorbikes; she urged people to get a copy and to report incidents of anti-social use of motorbikes (the leaflet would shortly be available online and in a wide range of local outlets).

(The Public Perception Survey is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YourPolice>)

(The full police report is appended to these minutes.)

299.3 Environmental update

Katie Quinn reported on several initiatives and responses from the East Neighbourhood Team. A bench had been restored to the bus stops near the Town Hall, though a metal one instead of the original wooden one. An application had been made for a grant of £24,000 to tidy up the 'plaza' area at the east end of the Promenade; this would be decided at the Environment Forum meeting on 6th June (in the East

Neighbourhood Office at 7pm). The recycling bins at Windsor Place were now fixed to metal supports so could no longer be left blocking the pavement; the bins at the south end of Bridge Street would be moved further from the junction in the next few days. The sand on the beach was being monitored, following the storms which had changed its profile so dramatically. Core Paths Network signage had been designed for the Promenade and would be installed around mid-June. The grids in the burn in Rosefield Park are maintained by the Council's Flood Prevention Team, and are checked at least once a month (more often when there is heavy rain); the local Task Force Teams help out to clear debris from the burn if needed.

Dawson Currie asked about a grid which seemed to have been removed from the burn at the north end of Rosefield Park. Celia Butterworth asked what was to be done about the dead trees at the east end of the Promenade. Damian Killeen asked if the plans for upgrading this area would take account of the agreed art strategy for the Promenade, to which Big Things On The Beach had contributed. Frances Wraith reported that a stone had fallen on to the pavement from a wall in Sandford Gardens. Brenda Molony asked if the ClearChannel toilet on the Promenade was still working as it appeared to be closed all the time, and it was suggested that there should be a contact telephone number to report problems with it; Dawson Currie wondered how much it was used. Katie agreed to investigate all these items.

- * **Action: Katie Quinn to find out about a missing grid in the burn at the north end of Rosefield Park.**
- * **Action: Katie Quinn to find out what was to be done about dead trees at the east end of the Promenade.**
- * **Action: Katie Quinn to check that the work to upgrade the east end of the Promenade would take account of the Promenade's art strategy.**
- * **Action: Katie Quinn to arrange the repair of a wall in Sandford Gardens.**
- * **Action: Katie Quinn to find out if there was a continuing problem with the commercial toilet on the Promenade, and if possible to find out how much it is used.**

299.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ros Sutherland observed that she was not investigating "local resources" as stated in 298.9b, but "golf courses". With this change the minutes were accepted: proposed by Diana Cairns, seconded by Anne Ward.

299.5 Matters arising

299.5a Bike-marking service (298.2). The police had arranged several sessions in Leith in June (see police report at end of minutes), and would also provide this service from their caravan on the Promenade during Operation Drift (see 299.2 above).

299.5b Planting in Rosefield Park (298/5e). Peter McColl had written to the Neighbourhood Partnership as requested, but hadn't yet received a response.

299.5c Promenade signage (298.5g). John Stewart had circulated details of the meeting as requested, and the meeting had taken place.

299.5d Noise from football pitches (298.6). Nick Stroud had written to the manager at PowerLeague as requested.

299.5e Planning issues (298.8c). John Stewart had written as requested to object to the partial demolition of 'Portobello Primary Substation', and had circulated details of the meeting about the plans to improve Fort Kinnaird.

299.5f Portobello's fingerposts (298.8f). Celia Butterworth reported that she had assessed each of our ten fingerposts. Only one of these was actually wrong, in pointing to the old Joppa Post Office, but most of them needed attention, some were broken, and none of them helped people to find the Joppa Tennis Courts. The Traders' Association had installed them some ten years previously, but it wasn't clear who was now responsible for maintaining them; Katie Quinn agreed to investigate.

- * **Action: Katie Quinn to find out who will maintain our fingerposts.**

299.5g Article about Joppa Tennis Courts (298.8f). Brenda Molony reported that no one had provided an article about the tennis courts, so the *Portobello Reporter* had had to go to press without it.

299.5h William Y Darling award (298.9a). Nick Stroud had submitted a nomination as requested.

299.5i Community management of golf courses (298.9b). Ros Sutherland had located a golf course on South Uist which was run by the local community (<http://www.askernishgolfclub.com/>), and was trying to find others, but there weren't many so it would not be easy to find useful experience to help run Portobello's golf course in this way.

299.5i Jubilee Park (298.9b). Diana Cairns had written as requested to Cllr Lesley Hinds, Chair of the TIE Committee, asking that Portobello Golf Course be adopted as a Jubilee Park.

299.5j Speaker from Planning (298.9c). John Stewart had invited Stephen Hajducki to the June or August meetings but hadn't received a reply yet.

299.5k PEDAL wind-turbine project (298.9a). Nick Stroud had written to the Scottish Government asking for their support for this project, as requested.

299.5l Grids in burn in Rosefield Park (298.9a). *See item 299.3 above.*

299.6 Minutes of the Special Meeting

Several modifications and corrections were requested:

Question 6 should refer to the code of conduct for community councillors, not that for community councils.

All platform speakers should have their affiliation indicated.

The three statements presented at the start of the meeting should be included verbatim in an appendix.

With these amendments the minutes were adopted as a correct record; proposed by Sean Watters, seconded by Frances Wraith.

* **Action: Nick Stroud to amend these minutes as indicated.**

299.7 Community Council Survey Report

Sandra Blake explained the background to the summary reports which had previously been circulated by email. She had met with Sean Watters and Ros Sutherland to extract specific suggestions, group them into categories, and indicate if and how they might be taken forward. She praised Sean Watters for the conception and implementation of the project, which had obtained the views of 127 people plus 167 from High School pupils. The main points were to improve the High Street, promote Portobello, deal with traffic problems, improve public transport, and enhance the Promenade and Beach. Communication was identified as an issue to address, and it was suggested that the Community Council should set up a sub-group to oversee improvements. The survey had raised many useful ideas, but the challenge was in implementing any of these, and the Community Council would need the support of the community and agencies such as the City Council to make progress. Anyone who wanted a more detailed view of the survey's outcomes could find documents containing all the individual responses on the Community Council website.

Several further points were made in the ensuing discussion. A 'Shop on the Prom' initiative would be launched at the derelict Funpark site at 10am on Wednesday 30th May. A Community Development Trust would probably be able to take forward several key projects, but would be hard work to set up and run (anyone interested in this should contact Sandra Blake, email sandrablake@hotmail.com). We should get the City of Edinburgh to take more interest and pride in Portobello, and to recognise the valuable contribution it makes to the city. It was not considered sensible to deal separately with the High Street and Promenade, and our Town Centre Coordinator was taking a holistic view of Portobello, though it was acknowledged that the High Street faces specific issues.

It was agreed that this topic should be a major agenda item for the next meeting.

299.8 Promenade signage

Brenda Molony reported that the group set up to discuss the new signs for the Promenade had met, and agreed a set of words which would encourage considerate behaviour from both cyclists and pedestrians. There were also to be markings on the Prom at key points. The City Council would be monitoring the use of the Prom after the signs are installed in mid-June, and would report back any problems.

(The designs for the new signs are appended to these minutes.)

299.9 Fort Kinnaird extension

Diana Cairns reported on the meeting she had attended with the developers who were planning to extend Fort Kinnaird. Proposals were presented for better shopfronts, wider pedestrian crossings, better facilities for cyclists, a new cinema, and five restaurants.

299.10 Reports

299.10a Treasurer: Leon Thompson reported outgoings of £1 to buy the telephone kiosk, £10 for the Heritage Trust subscription, £45 for the rent of the Community Centre for the special meeting, £50 for the community survey incentive prize draw, and £29.92 for the repair to the geology board, for a total expenditure this month of £135.92, leaving £1,472.63 in the account.

299.10b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting would be on 13th June at the High School.

299.10c Planning: no report this time.

299.10d Signs and Plaques: no report this time.

299.10e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next management meeting would be held on 12th June.

299.10f Joppa Tennis Courts: no report this time.

299.10g Councillors and MP

Maureen Child had been moving office, so had only produced a single-page monthly report this month. Mike Bridgman thanked everyone who had voted for him in the recent election, since when he had been busy helping to establish the new administration. David Walker was welcomed to his first meeting since being elected as a new councillor; he expressed his hope that the issue of the new High School would soon be dealt with and looked forward to working with the Community Council on the interesting initiatives and exciting opportunities open to us. Sheila Gilmore elaborated on the difficulties and benefits of operating a Community Development Trust, and offered to help in any way she could with the discussions around having one in Portobello. She invited anyone interested in her work in Westminster to join the mailing list for her regular e-newsletter (email sheila.gilmore.mp@parliament.uk).

299.11 Any Other Business

John Stewart passed on a general invitation to all community councillors to a social event with Craigmillar Community Council, at 6:30pm on Thursday 31st May in the Hays Business Centre. There was no other business on this occasion, and the meeting concluded with the usual post-AGM social gathering.

* **Action: all, to consider attending the social event with Craigmillar Community Council.**

299.12 Future meetings

Meetings are held on the final Monday of each month, except July and December, at 7:30pm, in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh EH15 1EU.

The next meeting is on 25th June 2012 (**300**)

Subsequent dates are: 27th August 2012 (301; no meeting in July)
24th September 2012 (302)
29th October 2012 (303)
26th November 2012 (304)

Portobello Community Council on the Web: <http://www.portobellocc.org/>

The Safer Neighbourhood Team: tel: (0131) 652 4147
email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Portobello/Joppa Beat Update

Crime Update

In the month of May there have been 48 crimes reported across the Portobello/Joppa area. Although this is an increase on previous months, 14 of these crimes relate specifically to two incidents and all these crimes were solved. Crimes of vandalism and theft remain consistent and account for almost half of the reported incidents. There were only 5 housebreakings recorded this month.

High visibility patrols are being conducted as often as possible along the Promenade and adjoining streets to deter youths from gathering and causing anti-social behaviour. There have been several recoveries of alcohol from youths under 18 and enquires are being made to establish where the alcohol originated.

There were 4 vehicular accidents in the Portobello/Joppa area this month, one of which involved minor injury.

Motorcycles

Unfortunately in the early hours of 7th May a twenty-year-old man was killed when the motorbike he was riding crashed into a tree on the walkway running from the old Big W car park at the Milton Link to The Jewel. Another male who was riding pillion passenger suffered leg injuries and was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary for treatment. The motorcycle was recovered at the location and enquiries are still being made to discover the cause of this tragic incident. This is the third time in three years that a young man has been killed in the local area riding a motorcycle.

We are continuing our efforts to detect and disrupt the dangerous and anti-social use of off-road motorcycles but are appealing for the support of the public to assist us. We need information about who is committing these offences and where illegal or stolen motorcycles are being stored. A description of the rider and clothing along with details of type of bike, make, colour, distinguishing features, stickers are of great benefit. A publicity campaign will soon be launched in the areas most affected by motorcycle incidents encouraging the public to come forward with information.

Information can be passed anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800-555-111 or to any local police officer.

Bogus Caller/Doorstep Crime

On Wednesday 30th May between 1000 and 1500 hours, officers from the Portobello Craigmillar SNT will be holding a roadshow at B&Q, Newcraighall highlighting bogus callers and doorstep crime. Along with trading standards and community safety wardens, local officers will be providing advice and reassurance to customers. Unfortunately, elderly residents are often targeted for these crimes, so by holding the roadshow on the "Over 60s" discount day we hope to provide the appropriate guidance and advice to as many relevant people as possible. If you know any individuals or groups who you think would benefit from a visit regarding this matter please contact PS Barry Mercer who will arrange this.

Bicycle Marking

In response to a question raised at last month's meeting I can report that Lothian & Borders Police use the "Secured by Design" system for marking pedal cycles. Bicycles are marked with a UV compound, which is then entered onto an electronic database for storage. Appointments can be made with PC Buchan, the crime prevention officer, at Portobello Police Station to get your bicycle marked. It costs £5 per bike but below is a list of scheduled dates where the marking will be free of charge.

June 5th, 1700 – 1900 hours at Ocean Terminal

June 9th, 1100 – 1400 hours at Leith Links

June 12th, 1200 – 1400 hours at Leith Library

As further dates are announced in the local area they will be listed on the crime prevention page of the police website.

Public Perception Survey and Local Policing

Lothian & Borders Police are currently running a public perception survey in order to know local communities' views about policing, safety and what it is like to live in their local area. The results of the survey will be used to help form policing priorities and influence how we engage with local communities in future. We are keen for as many people as possible to complete the survey in order for the results to be representative. I have a number of hard copies with pre-paid envelopes should you wish to complete one. Alternatively it can be completed online and I have postcards with the link to the website.

Please take the time to complete these surveys, as the results help us to better understand local areas and their specific needs.

At the recent community safety meeting it was agreed to continue with the three current policing priorities, which are –

1. Tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in common stairs in the Niddrie House area
2. Tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour and drug abuse in Bingham Way
3. Tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the Cakemuir area.

If you have any specific issues or complaints you wish to raise then please contact the Portobello Craigmillar Safer Neighbourhood Team office on the numbers below where you will be able to speak with your local officer.

Tel: 0131 652 4147 (office)

Tel: 0131 311 3131 (24 hours)

email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk