



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 300<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

**Present:** Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff (Joppa Tennis Courts), Caroline Hosking, Mandy Lawson (PEDAL), Lawrence Marshall (Portobello Older Peoples' Project), Peter McColl, Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Andrew Patterson (Portobello Council of Churches), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council).

**Apologies:** Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Sheila Gilmore MP, Katie Quinn (CoEC), Leon Thompson, Cllr David Walker, Anne Ward (PCATS).

**In attendance:** Lesley Carus (CoEC), Cllr Maureen Child, Stephen Hajducki (CoEC), Sgt. John Young (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, April McIntosh, Lewis Waugh, G McCulloch, Stephen Hawkins, and other members of the public

### 300.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 300.2 Presentation by Council planning staff

Lesley Carus and Stephen Hajducki of City of Edinburgh Planning Department gave a short presentation on the role of Community Councils in planning, and Permitted Development rights, and then answered questions. Points discussed included; the importance of the greenbelt, renewable technologies and micro-generation, Neighbour Notification procedures, the value of Community Councils in representing diverse views, consultation and Hard to Reach groups, and boundary conditions between Conservation and non-Conservation areas.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to ask Lesley Carus for more information on consulting 'Hard to Reach' groups.**

### 300.3 Police report

Sgt. John Young presented his report (see appended).

### 300.4 Environmental update

John Stewart presented Katie Quinn's report in her absence. The following items to be raised with Katie.

- Problems with the bins at the top of Bridge Street had still not been resolved.
- It would be preferable for the trees at Joppa Plaza to be retained where possible, and for the planting areas to be paved to match the surrounding if trees are removed.
- Problem with weeds around the Town Hall; preferably removed rather than just sprayed.
- Problem with poor pavement towards the bottom of James Street/Arran Court.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to raise points with Katie Quinn.**

## **300.5 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Correction: Archie Burn's apologies to be noted on AGM minutes as well as the general meeting. With this change the minutes were accepted: proposed by Diana Cairns, seconded by Caroline Hosking. The minutes of the general meeting were accepted unchanged: proposed by Joe Madden, seconded by Dawson Currie.

## **300.6 Matters arising**

**300.6a** Planting in Rosefield Park (299.5b). Peter McColl had yet to receive a response from CoEC.

**300.6b** Noise from football pitches (299.5d). No reply from the manager at Powerleague as yet.

**300.6c** Community management of golf courses (299.5i). No further action.

**300.6d** Jubilee Park (299.5i) No reply had been received from Cllr Lesley Hinds but the nomination of Portobello Golf Course as a Diamond Jubilee Field had been unanimously agreed at the TIE committee meeting on 18 June.

**300.6e** PEDAL wind turbine project (299.5k). Scottish Power were looking at what other properties they owned might be suitable to take the PEDAL wind turbine project forward. No further action.

**300.6f** Minutes of the Special Meeting (299.6). Nick Stroud to amend minutes as agreed: ongoing.

✿ **Action: Nick Stroud to amend minutes of the Special Meeting.**

## **300.7 Agree AOB**

Various items were agreed for discussion. It was also agreed to bring the deadline for requesting items on the agenda forward, so that it would be issued 7 days prior to meetings.

✿ **Action: Items to be requested sufficiently in advance, to ensure the agenda is issued 7 days prior to meetings.**

## **300.8 Community Council Survey Group**

Ros Sutherland gave an update on the work of the Survey Group and suggested actions (see appended). Various actions were suggested to improve communications e.g. alerting other local groups to consultations, hosting electronic copies of correspondence from May 2011 on the PCC web-site, publishing minutes of sub-group meetings, signposting issues to relevant parties, producing an annual report on the work of the Community Council. It was confirmed that the PCC already had a Twitter account although it had not been widely publicised, and the possibility of a Facebook page was raised but that would require people willing to take on the responsibility. It was noted that the PCC deals with a considerable amount of information and whilst that itself presents difficulties, sharing such information with other parties and the wider community timeously would be beneficial. It was also noted that improved communications was seen as a two way process, allowing for information to be both disseminated and gathered, and that funds from the PCC budget could be allocated to consultation exercises in the future.

✿ **Action: Recommendations from the Survey Group to be implemented.**

## **300.9 Consultation on proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill**

Ros Sutherland gave an overview of the Scottish Government's consultation on their proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (see appended). The deadline for the consultation is the 29<sup>th</sup> August. It was agreed that, whilst the consultation covered a wide range of topics and involved some complex issues, there were clearly many areas of interest and so PCC should try to formulate a response, possibly in conjunction with other local groups such as PEDAL. It was also suggested that individual responses might also be helpful in providing a diversity of views. It was agreed that PCC members needed more time to consider the consultation and that it would be helpful to share thoughts on it. To that end Geoff Lynn offered to help set up a 'survey', with responses accessible to PCC members. It was also agreed to set up a sub-group (Sandra Blake, Mandy Lawson, Ros Sutherland, Sean Watters) to look at the issue in more detail and feedback to the PCC by early August.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to liaise with Geoff Lynn regarding a 'survey'. Sub-group to feedback by early August.**

## **300.10 Open letter to PCC**

There was a long discussion regarding the open letter to the PCC. The hard work and commitment of PCC members was acknowledged, as was the good work PCC does, and it was felt that the initiatives outlined by the Survey Group would improve communications and transparency whilst offering new opportunities for consultation. Portobello is very active, with many groups and individuals interested in matters affecting the community. Whilst there were differing views on aspects of PCC, it was thought important to move on in a positive way given the shared objectives of improving Portobello as a place to live, work and visit.

## **300.11 Reports**

**300.11a Treasurer:** End of year accounts circulated.

**300.11b Neighbourhood Partnership:** No report.

**300.11c Planning:** Information regarding the application for a new cinema and restaurant units at Fort Kinnaird was circulated. It was agreed to comment supportively on the application, suggesting a developer subsidy towards improved bus services to Fort Kinnaird.

- ◆ **Action: Robert Gatliff to draft a response, Sean Watters to circulate for comment prior to submission; deadline 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

**300.11d Signs and Plaques:** No report.

**300.11e Community Centre:** No report.

**300.11f Joppa Tennis Courts:** No report.

**300.11g Councillors:** Maureen Child had circulated her written report.

## **300.12 Any Other Business**

**300.12a X26 Bus service:** The number of stops for the express 26 service had been reduced.

- ◆ **Action: Diana Cairns to write to Lothian Buses requesting at least one stop be re-instated.**

**300.12b Village Show:** It was agreed to again have a PCC stall at the Village Show, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and volunteers would be required.

- ◆ **Action: Rota to be drawn up nearer the time.**

**300.12c Portobello Town Clock:** John Stewart had written to the Head of City Development regarding the reinstatement of the clock but had not yet received a response.

**300.12d Shops on the Prom:** Sarah Woodford was looking for assistance in re-erecting the Shops on the Prom signs on the wall adjacent to the Funpark. It was agreed that the PCC might be able to make a contribution towards the cost of paint although there may be a possibility of getting free materials from B&Q for community purposes.

✿ **Action: John Stewart to reply to Sarah Woodford.**

**300.12e Brighton Place:** CoEC had confirmed that the re-laying of the setts in Brighton Place was provisionally planned in the 2015/16 Programme of Works.

**300.12f Portobello Older People's Project:** Brenda Maloney asked if the PCC might be able to make a donation to the Portobello Older People's Project. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

✿ **Action: To be discussed at the August meeting.**

**300.12f Church Amalgamation:** Archie Burns asked Andrew Patterson to clarify the situation regarding the proposed church amalgamation. He confirmed that, for various reasons, the Church of Scotland was downsizing and that an amalgamation was inevitable although the move would be more than a year away. No decision on buildings would be taken for some time, and congregations would have to consider that carefully. Church buildings play a hugely important role in supporting the community and local groups, but how that can be sustained is a challenging issue that needs to be looked at.

### **300.13 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 27th August 2012 (301; no meeting in July)

Subsequent dates are: 24th September 2012 (302)  
29th October 2012 (303)  
26th November 2012 (304)

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

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