



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 303rd meeting held on 29th October 2012 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff (Joppa Tennis Courts), Caroline Hosking, Nelson Johnstone, Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Peter McColl, Andrew Patterson (Council of Churches), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council).

Apologies: Sheila Gilmore MP, Mandy Lawson (PEDAL), Kenny MacAskill MSP, Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Katie Quinn, David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), Leon Thompson, Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

In attendance: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Barry Mercer (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Colin Cuthbert, Gillian Dunn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness and other members of the public.

303.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

303.2 Police Report

Barry Mercer presented his report (see appended). Archie Burns raised a concern about improper use of the bus lanes at Jock's Lodge and Barry Mercer agreed to pass that on to colleagues in the relevant area. Nelson Johnstone raised a concern that the police cycle patrols were under equipped, limiting their use. Barry Mercer confirmed that a bid for funds to fully equip the four bikes had recently been submitted, that if successful would allow greater use.

303.3 Environment update

Katie Quinn couldn't attend the meeting but the October Environmental Report had been circulated that also addressed three matters arising from the last meeting (see appended).

Nelson Johnstone noted that the Coillesdene bus shelter had been installed. Caroline Hosking raised a concern that the issues with the Bridge Street bins had not been resolved. Archie Burns raised a concern that the road markings on the Prom to complement the new cycling signage had not been implemented. It was noted that a delay in the road marking had been anticipated as it was dependent on the relevant team being available in the area. It was agreed to raise the issues with Katie Quinn.

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

303.4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Peter McColl's apologies to be added and the date of the next Neighbourhood Partnership corrected to Wednesday 28th November. With these changes the minutes of the meeting were approved: proposed by Nick Stroud, seconded by Maria Devoy.

Diana Cairns wished it recorded that she did not agree that the minute of the August meeting, in relation to item 301.4 (Sainsbury's), was a true record.

303.5 Matters arising

303.5a Fingerposts (302.5b). A meeting to inspect the fingerposts had been undertaken and a report circulated.

303.5b Noise from football pitches (302.5d). Robert Gatliff had tried unsuccessfully to contact the neighbour who had raised the issue previously, but agreed to try again.

- ◆ **Action: Robert Gatliff to contact the neighbour regarding the noise problem.**

303.5c Community Council Survey group (302.5e). Item 7 on the agenda.

303.5d Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (302.5g). Sean Watters had circulated some further information from the Planning Department regarding consultation and 'Hard to Reach' groups. The National Standards for Community Engagement would be discussed at a future meeting.

- ◆ **Action: National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed at a future meeting.**

303.5e Donation to Portobello Older Peoples Project (302.5i). It was agreed to donate £100 towards the project.

- ◆ **Action: £100 donation to be arranged.**

303.5f Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (302.7). A response had been submitted.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to circulate the response.**

303.5g Transport (302.8). Sean Watters had contacted Sarah Woodford regarding the re-branding of the 26 bus and had been advised the issue had been raised repeatedly with Lothian Buses but no firm date for redoing the livery had been forthcoming. The alternative of paid advertising would be in the region of £7k and was not considered realistic. Sean Watters agreed to contact Sarah Woodford again to see if a likely date for redoing the livery could be obtained.

Nick Stroud hadn't yet approached the Tour Bus operators about including Portobello in tours, partly because he felt they were unlikely to be interested, but agreed to follow up this and the possibility of stocking promotional materials.

Celia Butterworth suggested Ben McLeish liaise with Sarah Woodford regarding LRT and promotion opportunities.

John Stewart had circulated correspondence with Scottish Natural Heritage regarding their 'Get out and about in Edinburgh and the Lothians' booklet which made no mention of Portobello Beach. Whilst they did not anticipate a re-print, SNH were willing to add information on Portobello to their on-line database.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Sarah Woodford regarding the re-branding of the 26 buses.**
- ◆ **Action: Nick Stroud to investigate with the Tour Bus operators the possibility of including Portobello in tours, or stocking promotional material.**
- ◆ **Action: Ben McLeish to follow up with LRT on opportunities to promote our seaside.**

303.5h Treasurer (302.10a). The issue of increasing the rent for the hall had been raised and a response was awaited.

303.5i Planning (302.10c). A draft had been circulated regarding the Sainsbury's Planning application, and a response submitted.

303.5j Telephone Kiosk (302.11a). An update from Steve Wheatley on the Bellfield Street Kiosk project had been circulated. A lock had been fitted at the cost of £100, and preparation for the redecoration of the kiosk undertaken. A funding project was in the process of being set up via www.spacehive.com and would be publicised in due course. Information on the project could be found at <http://portylightbox.wordpress.com> and <http://www.facebook.com/portylightbox>. It was agreed to thank Steve Wheatley and the project group for all the work to date.

303.5k Christmas Lights (302.11b). Item 8 on the agenda.

303.6 Agree AOB

The following items for discussion under AOB were agreed; the PCC November Social, referendum events, a Portobello Heritage Trust event, skittles, a Community Councils event, the Beach House Cafe, Portobello High School.

303.7 Social Network Media

The two PCC Twitter accounts were discussed. It was agreed that two accounts caused unnecessary confusion and that one would be preferred. Given that the original account had considerably more followers, it was suggested that the best course would be to rename that account as @portobelloc, and redirect followers from the newer account that could be deleted. Peter McColl agreed to look into ways to simplify the arrangements. Also, whilst it was felt that Twitter was a useful means of communication, there were concerns that protocols had to be in place regarding its use. It was agreed that the Consultation sub-group would bring forward proposals to the PCC regarding the management of the account. It was also agreed that Nick Stroud could continue to operate the account in the meantime.

The pilot Facebook site was discussed. Again, whilst there was a view that it could be a useful means of communication, there were concerns about the management and regulation of such a site. It was agreed to keep the site going as it is, with the ability to post restricted to Office Bearers, and that the Consultation sub-group would bring forward proposals to the PCC regarding the management of the account.

It was also suggested that ongoing monitoring of these, and the PCC web-site, would be useful in seeing how effective they were in communicating with the community.

- ◆ **Action: Peter McColl to establish a single PCC Twitter account.**
- ◆ **Action: Consultation sub-group to bring forward proposals on the management and regulation of the Twitter and Facebook accounts.**
- ◆ **Action: Ongoing monitoring to see how effective the different means of communication were.**

303.8 Christmas Lights

Dawson Currie had asked the Council about alternative Christmas lights, but the response had not been encouraging. The policy was to have standard lights, and different lights would be expensive and require permission. Colin Cuthbert suggested that there were less expensive lighting options that could be used to good effect and agreed to come up with some suggestions for the PCC to consider, either for this Christmas or in the future.

Joe Madden had approached POD about an opening ceremony but had discovered that one was already being arranged by Sarah Woodford, involving the 'Sing in the City' choir, for 29th November. Sarah Woodford had requested help with stewarding the event and volunteers were asked for. John Stewart, Ann Ward, Ros Sutherland and Archie Burns all expressed willingness to help. Sean Watters agreed to circulate a request for volunteers round Row Party.

- ◆ **Action: Colin Cuthbert to forward ideas on lighting to PCC.**
- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to circulate request for volunteer stewards around Row Party.**

303.9 Reports

303.9a Treasurer: The balance in the account stood at £2,037.39.

303.9b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership would be at Portobello High School, Wednesday November 28th, 6:30pm.

303.9c Planning: The application for 11 Rosefield Street had been granted. The application for a new cinema at Fort Kinnaird was discussed. Whilst the general feeling towards the proposal was positive, it was felt there were still some questions regarding sustainability and accessibility, particularly whether there could be improved public transport to site. It was agreed to submit a response to the application, incorporating points raised by Mandy Lawson on behalf of PEDAL, as well as the possibility of improved pedestrian, cycle and bus access.

◆ **Action: Robert Gatliff to circulate a draft response to the Fort Kinnaird proposal.**

The Sainsbury's application for an alcohol licence was discussed. Whilst there was general agreement that the provision of alcohol, and the associated health and crime risks, were serious matters that were a more pressing concern than they had perhaps been in the past, there were differing views on how to approach this particular application. After a wide ranging discussion, a proposal to write a letter of comment requesting conditions on any licence restricting the type and quantity of alcohol that could be stocked, was put to a vote; 5 in favour, 7 against. A separate proposal, to consult the community on the issue of alcohol provision more generally, was agreed.

◆ **Action: Consultation with the community on the issue of alcohol provision.**

Nick Stroud had requested the Beach House Cafe planning application be discussed. Whilst PCC had not commented on the application, and the deadline for responses had passed, the matter was going before the Development Management Sub-committee at a hearing. Nick Stroud suggested PCC write a letter of support for the Beach House, as a valued business within the community, to balance the negative comments of those who had objected. Whilst many people expressed the view that the Beach House was very valued, there was also a view that because the issue hadn't been previously discussed, or the views of those who objected considered in detail, it was difficult to form a firm view on the matter. After much discussion, a proposal not to do anything further was put to a show of hands and the majority agreed.

303.9d Signs & plaques: No report.

303.9e Community Centre: No report.

303.9f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

303.9g Councillors: Cllr Child reported on a project celebrating young people, undertaken through the Cafe K project at the Jack Kane centre. Cllr Bridgman noted that it had been a busy time, in particular with the issues of Castlebrae and Portobello High School.

303.10 AOB

303.10a Referendum: John Stewart had circulated information on proposals by the Scottish Community Alliance to host a series of local events around the independence referendum. Alastair Cameron had suggested PCC might be interested in playing a role in this and had offered to liaise with the SCA about what would be involved. It was agreed that this might be something PCC would be willing to be involved with, subject to more detail.

◆ **Action: John Stewart to ask Alastair Cameron for more information.**

303.10b Community Council event: COEC were organising an event to celebrate the work of Community Councils, Wednesday 28th November, 7pm at the City Chambers. COEC Council had requested that representatives from each Community attend and anyone interested should let Diana Cairns know.

✿ **Action: Those interested in attending to contact Diana Cairns.**

303.10c Portobello High School: Archie Burns suggested PCC write to the Council welcoming the adoption of a twin-track approach to delivering the new school. After discussion it was agreed to wait until more detail emerged before considering the matter further.

303.10d Portobello Heritage Trust event: A talk on 'Preserving Scotland's Industrial Heritage' was arranged for 7:30pm, Wednesday 21st November, in St Mark's Church.

303.10e PCC November social: Arrangements to be made for the social event after the November meeting; Maria Devoy to arrange food, Diana Cairns to arrange drinks, Sean Watters to arrange glasses.

✿ **Action: Maria Devoy, Diana Cairns and Sean Watters to arrange the November social event.**

303.10f Skittles: Information on skittles at the Sheep's Heid was circulated.

303.11 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 26th November 2012 (304)

Subsequent dates are: 28th January 2013 (305: no meeting in December)
25th February 2013 (306)
25th March 2013 (307)

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

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

Environmental Report – October 2012

Actions from the September meeting:

- The 'Welcome to Edinburgh' sign has now been refurbished and will be back in place by the week commencing 29 October.
- There aren't recycling figures available specifically for the Portobello area, but I have been forwarded this information for the whole of Edinburgh. From the period between April 2011 to March 2012 the figures are as follows:
 - Total waste collected: 228,883 (tonnes)
 - Total landfill: 147,669 (tonnes)
 - Percentage of waste collected that was recycled: 33.5%
- The otter that has been seen in Figgate Pond is a threat to other wildlife in that it will be eating animals that form its regular diet, such as fish and occasionally small mammals. It is also a good sign that the pond is a clean habitat. Otters are classed as a European Protected Species and as such, it is an offence under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 to capture or transport them. More information about the preservation of otters can be found on the Scottish Natural Heritage [website](#).

Environment Team Update:

Right First Time Road Works - the Roads Team are arranging for permanent repairs to be carried out on the roads and footpaths in Bath Street, Marlborough Street, Straiton Place and Pittville Street Lane at the beginning of November. The pavements in James Street will also be included within this work. More information on exact dates will be available on the Council's website shortly, and I will forward you the web link when this is available.

Rosefield Park - work is progressing well on the new facilities and the new petanque court and games area are nearing completion. We anticipate that members of the public will be able to use these facilities by mid November.

Joppa Bandstand - the maintenance work (on the pagoda) is almost complete. The hard landscaping improvement works will be commencing shortly, to pave over the empty planting spaces.

Portobello Prom Signage - the signage advising that cycling is now permitted on the Prom has been installed.

Damaged Fingerposts - I and a colleague met with Celia, John and Nick on 27 September to check the fingerposts on the Promenade and along the High Street. We identified what improvements are necessary for each post and the Roads Team are now investigating the costs of this work. They will be getting back to me with the timescales, and I will update you again when I have this information.

New East Neighbourhood Office and Craigmillar Library - the new office and library is now almost complete, and staff will begin the move to the new building in a few weeks time. The building will be open to the public on 26 November.

I am again on holiday on the date of the meeting (bad timing!) but as always if I can help with anything else please get in touch.

Best wishes

Katie

Katie Quinn | Environment Services Development Officer | City of Edinburgh Council | East Neighbourhood Office, 86 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DT | Tel: 0131 529 3298 | Fax: 0131 529 3011 | kathryn.quinn@edinburgh.gov.uk | www.edinburgh.gov.uk/east | www.twitter.com/east_team

Portobello Community Council Police Report – October 2012

Crime

Between the 1st and 25th October 2012 there have 35 crimes recorded in the Portobello area, which by the end of the month should be slightly down on, last month's figures. Again these are for a variety of offences with almost half of them relating to various crimes of dishonesty, shoplifting and thefts.

There has been a recent increase of theft of property from within parked cars. Please ensure that no items are left on display within cars or vehicles. Even if the item is empty or holds nothing of value please make sure it is not on display as any thief would not know this and may be tempted to smash the window to find out. If you do see any persons loitering round vehicles and looking through windows then please contact us passing a description of the persons if possible.

This month there have been two vehicle accidents reported in the area one on the High Street and the other in Windsor Place, both of these are damage only incidents.

On the beat

In recent weeks your local officers, Scott McLennan and Graham Pears have worked alongside our traffic wardens addressing the local priority of speeding and inconsiderate driving along Joppa Road. Over the past month the speed of 962 vehicles was measured and 60 were found to be marginally exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The owners of these vehicles were issued with community warning letters. On a positive note the average speed of the vehicles measured was just under the speed limit.

In line with previous years we will be out on a dedicated operation for Bonfire night to ensure the safety of the public and deal with any antisocial or criminal behaviour. Along with the Council and Fire and Rescue Service we will be patrolling the area checking the location of bonfires and dealing with any calls as they come in. The Services for Communities drama 'Toast', on bonfire and firework safety, will be presented to each high school in the east area leading up to bonfire night and visits will be carried out to stores selling fireworks. If you do notice a bonfire being prepared over the coming week please contact the council or the police who will assess the bonfire and take any necessary action.

Local Policing/Community Priorities – You Said!...We Did!

The policing priorities for the Craigmillar/Portobello area are

1. Tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour within common stairs in the Niddrie House area
2. Reduce speeding and inconsiderate driving along Joppa Road.
3. Tackle vandalism in and around school premises.

We will continue to work towards these local priorities along with our partner agencies. If you have any suggestions for future local priorities or there are any other issues affecting you please contact the Portobello/Craigmillar Safer Neighbourhood team via the details below.

Tel: 0131 652 4147 (office)

Tel: 0131 311 3131 (24hours)

email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

We continue to target the persons responsible for causing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour and provide a high visibility presence. We depend on community engagement and information and encourage all members of the public to report any incidents or information. Confidential information can be passed anonymously to crime stoppers on **0800-555-111** or at **crimestoppers-uk.org**.