



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 305th meeting held on 28th January 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Caroline Hosking, Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Andrew Patterson (Council of Churches), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Leon Thompson, Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council),

Apologies: Tom Ballantine, Nelson Johnstone, Mandy Lawson (PEDAL), Lawrence Marshall, Peter McColl, Nick Stroud, Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

In attendance: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker, John Young (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Malcolm Betts, Gillian Dunn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Ian Wilson, and other members of the public.

305.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

305.2 Police Report

John Young presented his report (see appended).

305.3 Environment update

Katie Quinn couldn't attend the meeting but Sean Watters summarised the January Environmental Report (see appended).

305.4 Presentation from Places for People

Michael Huddleston and Gwen James from Places for People gave a short presentation on the Community Connecting project. This free service sought to help over 65s in south-east and north-west Edinburgh, at risk of becoming socially isolated, through matching them to local groups and activities. Clients would be given an initial assessment and be matched with a volunteer for a four month period to assist them. Referrals for possible clients could come from anywhere and a community mapping exercise was being undertaken to identify available groups and resources. The project was also seeking 40 volunteers to work with up to 100 people over the coming year. Volunteers could expect a time commitment of 2-3 hours per week and would have expenses met. More information could be found at www.placesforpeoplecareandsupport.co.uk.

305.5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was pointed out that the early January meeting should be described as 'additional' rather than 'special', and that Diana Cairns had been asked to write a letter to the Licensing Board, not simply circulate a draft. With these changes, the minutes of the November meeting were approved; proposed by Joe Madden, seconded by Dawson Currie.

305.6 Minutes of the Additional Meeting

A number of changes were suggested to the minutes of the additional meeting. Sean Watters agreed to circulate a revised draft for consideration at the February meeting.

305.7 Matters arising

305.7a Noise from football pitches (303.5b). John Stewart said he would contact Robert Gatliff for an update.

- ◆ **Action: John Stewart to contact Robert Gatliff regarding the issue.**

305.7b Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (304.6b). The National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed at a future meeting.

- ◆ **Action: National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed in February.**

305.7c Transport (304.6e). Sean Watters had contacted Sarah Woodford regarding Lothian Buses and a date for redoing the livery. She had yet to receive a response but would report back when she had. It was unknown whether Nick Stroud had received a reply from Tour Bus operators. It was agreed to let Sarah Woodford liaise with Lothian Buses rather than have Ben McLeish duplicating efforts.

- ◆ **Action: Nick Stroud to report on the response from Tour Bus operators.**

305.7d Treasurer (304.6f): The issue of increasing the rent for the hall had been raised and a response was awaited.

305.7e Social Network Media (304.6h): The consultation sub-group had met to discuss proposals for the management of the Twitter and Facebook accounts; see item 305.9.

305.7f Planning (304.6j): Diana Cairns had submitted a letter to the Licensing Board, having circulated a draft for comment.

Sean Watters had done some research into a possible consultation on alcohol and agreed to circulate a written proposal prior to February meeting.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to circulate a written proposal for an alcohol consultation.**

305.7g Planning (304.8c): Sean Watters had submitted a supporting comment on the Toddler Hut planning application. John Stewart had written regarding the Sainsbury's proposals; three of the four applications had been passed and the outstanding application (regarding external plant) was due to go to committee shortly, a site inspection having taken place. John Stewart had also submitted a comment of support regarding the Fort Kinnaird cinema application as agreed at the additional January meeting.

305.8 Agree AOB

It was agreed to discuss the Portobello Park Private Bill and the recent closure of shops on the High Street, as suggested by Lee Kindness.

305.9 Social Network Media

Ros Sutherland reported on the recommendations of the consultation sub-group on the management of the Community Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts as well as other means of communication (see appended). There was some work to be done to clarify some aspects, but the proposals were broadly welcomed. The PCC social media accounts would continue to operate on a trial basis and the rules kept under review as they were developed.

One recommendation that was queried was the proposal not to follow any politician's Twitter feeds. As not all politicians were on Twitter, there was a concern that following those that do might be perceived as bias. However, there was also a view that politician's feeds were useful given the nature of Twitter and the sharing of information, and that following a particular Twitter account did not equate to endorsement. Cllrs Bridgman and Walker expressed the view that whilst they did not Tweet, they would take no issue with the Community Council following other politicians who did. No final decision was taken, but it was agreed to look at how other Community Councils tackled the issue and make a decision in due course.

Lee Kindness pointed out that the PCC Twitter feed was not currently addressed as @portobellocc as intended, and that the account had not been active since late November. Sean Watters suggested that the consolidation of the Twitter accounts may have caused an interruption but he would contact Nick Stroud about resuming his role in helping with the account. Diana Cairns said she would contact Peter McColl regarding the naming of the Twitter account.

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Nick Stroud about the operation of the Twitter account.**

✿ **Action: Diana Cairns to contact Peter McColl about the naming of the Twitter account.**

305.10 Reports

305.10a Treasurer: The balance in the account stood at £1,833.03, after minor expenditure on the November social event and the Horizon Board.

305.10b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership would be at The White House, Wednesday February 27th, 6:30pm.

305.10c Planning: John Stewart had been approached by a retailer at Ocean Terminal concerned about the proposals at Fort Kinnaird. In the interests of fairness, representatives from both Fort Kinnaird and Ocean Terminal had been invited to the February meeting to express their views on the matter to the Community Council.

✿ **Action: Fort Kinnaird proposals to be discussed at the February meeting.**

John Stewart had been approached by a resident in Bellfield Street concerned about a driveway that had been installed without the necessary consents. An Enforcement Notice had been served but the matter had been appealed to the DPEA. After discussion it was agreed not to become involved in the issue, although the importance of the Conservation Area was noted.

305.10d Signs & plaques: Celia Butterworth reported on discussions regarding two additional plaques; one regarding Eric Lomax had been discounted, but one celebrating the architect William Hay was being considered.

305.10e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next meeting was Tuesday 12th February, at the Community Centre. He also extended an invitation to individuals to try the skittles at the Sheep's Heid, with a number of challenge matches arranged in over the next few months.

305.10f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

305.10g Councillors: Both Cllr Bridgman and Cllr Child reported on the works at the bottom of Bath Street. New traffic markings that had been put on hold had unexpectedly been installed, and some of the markings were thought to be incorrect. Pavement widening and the installation of a bollard were also due at the corner of Bath Street and Straiton Place, that would cause some further disruption. A meeting was due on site with Andy Mathieson, the Area Roads Manager, to review what had been done and to find a resolution.

Cllr Bridgman also reported on continuing concerns about refuse lorries operating in the early hours of the morning, and also noted his sorrow at the closing of Annie & Belle's Cafe.

305.11 AOB

305.11a Portobello Park Private Bill: Lee Kindness asked whether the Community Council would be responding to the Private Bill consultation. John Stewart responded that since the Council were seeking the views of the community directly through the consultation, and because the Community Council consulting the community would've been a duplication of that effort, PCC was not really in a position to comment.

305.11b Shop closures: Lee Kindness expressed his concern that four local businesses had recently closed, in particular Annie & Belle's, and felt that the Community Council could do more to support businesses on the High Street. Differing views were expressed on the issue. Some felt that the difficulties faced by traders were due to matters beyond the influence of PCC, such as planning regulations or economic circumstances generally, whereas some felt there were opportunities for PCC to be more supportive. However, it was agreed that the vitality of the High Street was of great importance and that current difficulties were a concern to everyone.

305.12 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 February 2013 (306)

Subsequent dates are: 25th March 2013 (307)
29th April 2013 (308)
27th May 2013 (309)

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

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

MINUTES OF PCC SURVEY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2012

Attendees: John Stewart, Frances Wraith, Ros Sutherland, Archie Burns, Sandra Blake, Diana Cairns, Sean Watters.

Apologies: Anne Ward, Nick Stroud.

Twitter account: It was agreed that the name of the Twitter account should be Portobellocc. Peter McColl had consolidated the accounts but had not re-named the account accordingly. Diana had e-mailed him to ask him to change it to the agreed name [now changed].

Action: Diana to ask Peter McColl for Twitter account password.

Office bearers will be able to send tweets as well as Nick Stroud as he has been operating the account for some time. It was agreed that information but not opinion could be re-tweeted. Tweets about local events can be tweeted but no tweets should be sent that promote commercial interests of any particular business. It was recognised that a lot of people in the community are not on Twitter. We need to identify key and appropriate people/groups to follow, including groups represented on PCC. It was agreed we should follow all local politicians or none. As not all are on Twitter we shall not follow any politicians.

A5 leaflet: At the recent "Celebrating community councils event" it had been noted that some CCs have an A5 information leaflet to explain who they are, what they do and when they meet. We agreed that this would be a useful way of reaching people who are not online and it could be distributed via the library and community centre. The leaflet would include contact details, web address, Twitter account and Facebook page (if agreed) as well as phone number and direction towards CC area in library. Hard to reach groups include the under 35s, ethnic groups, people from socially disadvantaged groups, and it was agreed that face-to-face contact might be the best way to engage with them. A stall could be run twice a year in the Co-op with information leaflets to try and encourage people who are not online to get involved.

Facebook: The possibility of a Facebook page was discussed. It will be used for announcements. SW to add other administrators. It was agreed that administrators are to be DC and SW. Only admin can start a thread. Useful/interesting photos can be e-mailed to administrators to post. Comments will be allowed but abusive comments will be removed. If there are repeated incidents of vexatious or abusive postings those making them will be blocked. The page would be actively monitored and there will be a review period, at the end of which the use and efficacy of the Facebook page will be reviewed.

Code of conduct: This needs to be agreed. We will check with other CCs about how they deal with abusive/offensive comments.

Action: RS to look at other CC Facebook pages so we can cherry-pick best practice and interesting things from them.

Environmental Report – January 2013

Actions from November Meeting:

Prom Signage - The signage and road markings are installed by two separate teams that unfortunately weren't available at the same time. The new markings are due to be installed in February this year.

Disabled Parking Signs in Coillesdene - The East Roads Team met with Mr Johnstone at the beginning of December about this signage and have confirmed that it will be installed in January/ February 2013.

Environment Update:

Portobello Community Garden: Work has begun to clear weeds and remove any litter from the garden. The area will be replanted in spring this year.

Portobello Fingerposts: The blacksmith will be removing fingerposts two at a time to restore and repair them. They will then be replaced and re-orientated to face the correct direction. This work will begin in January/ February this year.

Right First Time Road Repairs: All substantial road repairs have been completed in Marlborough Street, Bath Street, Regent Street and Straiton Place. There are some minor repairs to be finished off, and this work will be completed in February this year. This work will also include some repairs in James Street.

Gully Cleaning: The gullies on Portobello High Street were cleaned in mid December.

Joppa Bandstand: The painting works on the bandstand are now complete and the setts and drains will be cleaned shortly. This project was nominated as a Neighbourhood Environment Project (or NEP). The NEP's for the next financial year will be discussed at the Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum on 6 February at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend, to report any environmental issues or make a suggestion for an environmental improvement. The meeting will be held at the East Neighbourhood Centre.

Winter Weather Information about gritting routes and the location of grit bins can be found on the Council's website:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20189/severe_weather/1521/preparing_for_winter

To report any roads or gritting issues, the Council's contact centre can be reached on

0800 232323 or at clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk

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 – January 2013

Portobello/Joppa Beat Update

Crime Update

During December 2012 there were a total of 26 crimes reported in the Portobello and Joppa area and 10 of these were solved. As with previous months crimes of dishonesty are the most common crimes reported and this includes theft shoplifting, thefts from houses and vehicles. So far during January there have been 15 crimes reported to the police.

December and January saw 5 vehicle accidents reported in the area, one of which had minor injury, the rest involved damage to vehicles. There appeared to be no connection to any of the accidents and several lines of enquiry are being followed.

On the beat

For the past 10 weeks one of the local priorities has been Rosefield Park which has been gathering point for youths to consume alcohol whilst underage. As a consequence there was subsequent antisocial behaviour issues in and around the area. Calls to the police regarding youths in the park and surrounding areas has dropped in the last few months and none were received in December.

Officers have proactively patrolled the area and engaged with local youths. There has also been a concerted effort to work with the local retailers to ensure that alcohol is not being sold to those under age. All the on and off sale premises in the area were visited and the “think 25” scheme was reiterated to local retailers. Staff from the council licensing also carried out joint visits and spot checks with local officers to ensure all paperwork was in order and legislation was being complied with.

Your two local officers, Graham Pears and Scott McLennan, will continue to work in the area to build good community links with schools, businesses and local residents. If you wish to speak with Scott or Graham or any of the local officers then please contact us via the contact details at the end of this report. Please check our webpage for details of latest news in the area and dates of surgeries and events.

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

The policing priorities for the Craigmillar/Portobello area are

1. Detect and prevent those using motorbikes illegally on Greendykes Road.
2. Increase patrols to reduce antisocial behaviour and provide community reassurance in Magdalene Glen.
3. Provide advice to prevent thefts from property and vehicles in Niddrie Marischal and Niddrie House area.

If there are any other local 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**.