



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 307<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

**Present:** Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Caroline Hosking, Joe Madden (POD), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Ros Sutherland (PPAG) Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Nick Stroud, Anne Ward (PCATS), Leon Thompson, Ben McLeish.

**In attendance:** Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker, Malcolm Bett, Gillian Dunn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Alison Connelly, and other members of the public.

### 307.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 307.2 Police Report

Sgt. John Young presented his report (see appended). It was noted that the new Scotland wide structures to the police and fire services would come into force from April 1<sup>st</sup> and, at the suggestion of Cllr Bridgman, it was agreed to thank the staff from both services for all their hard work to date. It was also pointed out that there were aspects of the new organisations that were still to be finalised and there would inevitably be a bedding in period whilst issues were resolved.

### 307.3 Environment update

Sean Watters summarised the March Environmental Report (see appended). Matters arising from the last meeting were as follows;

- Litter problems at Windsor Place/embankment to the bypass/Christian Path: the Council's Task Force were responsible for cleaning all three of these areas. The team usually clean Windsor Place once a week, but had been working there more regularly recently, as there had been an increase in fly-tipping. The embankment to the bypass is normally cleaned on a Sunday morning. Christian Path is cleaned by the team once per shift (every four days) and they litter pick up to 1 metre either side of the path. If there are any instances of fly-tipping or litter, please let Kathy Quinn and the team will arrange for this to be cleaned up.
- The Rosefield Park railings will be installed in two lots, with the first set expected in May. The work is weather dependant, and can only take place in dry conditions because molten lead is being used to fix the railings.
- Puddles on the High Street: a new gully connection is to be installed to solve the problem of the puddles. The timescale for this work is 2 months.
- Puddles on the Prom: a new gully system will also be installed here, and a contractor is currently being appointed to do this work. Like the High Street, this should be complete within 2 months.

- The sign for the Community Centre is going to be installed and should be in place within the next two months

Archie Burns asked for an update on when the new markings for the Prom were to be installed.

- **Action: Sean Watters to contact Katie Quinn regarding the Prom markings.**

### **307.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved; proposed by Dawson Currie, seconded by Diana Cairns.

### **307.5 Matters arising**

**307.5a** Noise from football pitches (306.6a). John Stewart had received no reply from Robert Gatliff as yet.

- **Action: Awaiting information from Robert Gatliff regarding the issue.**

**307.5b** Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (306.6b). Sandra Blake said that as the National Standards for Community Engagement were relevant to the Review of the Scheme for Community Councils it could be discussed under that item of the agenda.

**307.5c** Treasurer (306.6d): Negotiations with the Baptist Church regarding the hall rental were ongoing.

- **Action: Leon Thompson to report back on hall rental.**

**307.5d** Alcohol Consultation (306.6e): Sean Watters had contacted Alcohol Focus Scotland to see if there were any resources or materials that might be useful in planning a consultation on alcohol, and would report back with more information in due course.

- **Action: Sean Watters to provide more information on a possible alcohol consultation.**

### **307.6 Agree AOB**

No items were suggested.

### **307.7 Review of the Scheme for community Councils**

The consultation on proposed changes to the Scheme for Community Councils had been extended until April 12<sup>th</sup>, with recommendations expected to go to the full Council meeting of March 14<sup>th</sup>. There was general agreement that the changes initially proposed were reasonable. Sandra Blake noted the importance of openness and accountability, and that the proposed requirement to produce an annual report demonstrating how Community Councils were fulfilling their consultative and representative role was an important step in that. Cllr Walker expressed the view that limited resources and support placed considerable constraints on what could be achieved in terms of consultation, and that Community Councils were under-resourced given the expectations of them. John Stewart advised that Jane Milne from CoEC would be attending the next PCC meeting to speak on the subject of consultation.

In addition to the original proposed changes to the scheme, a new recommendation had also come forward; to reduce the number of members allocated to Portobello Community Council from 15 elected individuals and 15 nominated group representatives, to 14 elected and 7 nominated in line with other Edinburgh Community Councils covering similar sized populations. There was a lengthy discussion of this issue with differing views expressed.

Arguments expressed against the proposal included:

- A large number of group places allows for more diversity, so PCC is better able to represent the community, as required by the Scheme for Community Councils.
- A lot is asked of Community Councils and reducing overall numbers would place a heavier burden on the remaining Community Councillors who are volunteers.
- PCC has been praised as one of the most active CCs in the city. Rather than changing an arrangement that had served well for so long, perhaps PCC could be seen as a model for other community councils.
- The current consultation was an opportunity to ask other Community Councils if they want to change their composition and increase their number of nominated members.
- If a concern is the balance between elected and nominated members, the number of elected members could be increased instead of reducing group representatives.
- If it was decided to reduce the number of nominated group representatives, it should be done in a staged manner over subsequent elections to ease the transition.

Arguments expressed for the proposal included:

- The current composition of PCC is out of line with all the other community councils and reduces the likelihood of contested elections, as people can find groups to represent instead of standing as individuals. This had happened in the past at the request of City of Edinburgh Council.
- As a matter of principle, individual members who can be directly elected should outnumber nominated group members.
- The large number of groups has not increased diversity. The overlap in membership of groups leads to like minded people ending up on the Community Council and since elections are not contested they can stay on as long as they want.
- Nominated membership has been uncontested allowing every group a representative regardless of how active or inactive they are.
- Reducing the number of group reps would provide greater incentive for people to stand as individuals thereby triggering elections, and if group places were also contested genuinely active groups could be favoured over those that are inactive.

Cllr Walker noted that when the council were unhappy with the views of Craigmillar Community Council they sought to adjust the composition of the Community Council and did this explain why the Council were seeking to adjust the composition of a community council which has been promoted as a good example of how a community council should operate.

It was agreed that John Stewart would draft a response reflecting the differing views expressed, and would circulate it for comment prior to submission.

❖ **Action: John Stewart to respond, having circulated a draft for comment.**

### **307.8 Portobello High School, Pre-Application Consultation**

John Stewart outlined the Council's proposals for the Pre-Application Consultation required before a renewed planning application for Portobello High School could be submitted. A twelve week consultation was planned running from April 8<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, with the planning application expected to follow in the Autumn. It was generally agreed that the consultation arrangements were adequate, although concern was

expressed about properly notifying local residents; there had been problems with neighbour notification during the first planning application and with the distribution of information leaflets during the recent Private Bill consultation. It was agreed to highlight this concern when commenting on the Pre Application Notice.

- ◆ **Action: John Stewart to respond, having circulated a draft for comment.**

### **307.9 Waste and recycling**

Ros Sutherland raised a query about restrictions on recycling and why some recyclable items weren't currently collected. Cllr Child commented that, whilst some items were recyclable, there might not always be a demand for the recycled material. It was noted that Council Officers had previously given a presentation to PCC on waste and recycling and it was suggested that an update on that would be welcome.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Katie Quinn about an update on waste and recycling.**

### **307.10 Reports**

**307.10a Treasurer:** No report.

**307.10b Neighbourhood Partnership:** No report.

**307.10c Planning:** The status of the cinema proposal at Fort Kinnaird was 'minded to grant' subject to a legal agreement covering certain conditions.

**307.10d Signs & plaques:** No report.

**307.10e Community Centre:** The next meeting was Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, at the Community Centre.

**307.10f Joppa Tennis Courts:** No report.

**307.10g Councillors:** No reports.

### **307.11 AOB**

No AOB.

### **307.12 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 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (308)

Subsequent dates are: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (309)  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (310)  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (311)

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)

## **Environment Update for March meeting:**

- The City of Edinburgh Council are supporting Clean Up Scotland (part of Keep Scotland Beautiful) to encourage community clean-ups in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. There is more information on the Council's website for anyone who wants to get involved in organising a clean-up, including how to get clean-up kits.
- More work has been carried out in Portobello Community Garden – rye grass has been removed from shrub beds and new plants will be put in next week.
- The improvement work on Joppa Plaza is nearing completion, and the new benches will be installed shortly.
- The next Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum meeting is 3 April at 7pm, at the East Neighbourhood Centre. If anyone would like to come along they would be very welcome.

**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](mailto:kathryn.quinn@edinburgh.gov.uk) | [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/east](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/east) | [www.twitter.com/east\\_team](http://www.twitter.com/east_team)**

## **Portobello/Joppa Beat Update**

### **Crime Update**

29 crimes were recorded across the Portobello/Joppa area in March. The majority of these relate to anti-social behaviour related offences. There were 2 break-ins to domestic properties. These properties were targeted during day-time hours and accordingly residents and business owners are encouraged to continue to be vigilant and take time to check their home security.

Crime prevention advice can be found by visiting Lothian and Borders Police website [www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk) and clicking on the crime prevention link, or alternatively you can arrange for a Crime Prevention visit by contacting the Craigmillar SNT team. Tel 0131-652-4147.

### **Road Accidents**

There were 7 recorded road accidents.

6 relating to damage only occurring at Brighton Place Crescent, Portobello High Street, Argyle Crescent, Windsor Place.

1 minor injury accident occurred at Harry Lauder Road.

### **On the beat**

Following Royal Assent of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Scotland's current policing services will merge on 1 April 2013 into one national organisation. Under legislative arrangements Lothian and Borders Police will transfer its functions to the Police Service of Scotland (PSoS) on the transfer date.

Front line services for Craigmillar and Portobello Ward will remain the same and there will be no change to the current community policing service provided.

Craigmillar and Portobello Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers are committed to addressing any issues and have dedicated patrols in "hotspot" areas identified from the "You said - We did" information. Community engagement is a vital tool when addressing antisocial behaviour issues and we would encourage you to contact your local SNT officer with any information or issues you have.

Details of all local SNT officers and updates regarding local policing matters can be found on the Lothian & Borders Police website.

[http://www.lbp.police.uk/my\\_neighbourhood/edinburgh/craigmillar-portobello.aspx](http://www.lbp.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/edinburgh/craigmillar-portobello.aspx)

## **Local Policing/Community Priorities**

The new policing priorities for the Craigmillar/Portobello area are:

1. Detect and prevent those using motorbikes illegally on Greendykes Road.
2. Provide advice to prevent thefts from property and vehicles in the Cleekim area.
3. Tackle and reduce inconsiderate and dangerous parking at Brunstane Primary School.

We will be working closely with our partner agencies in an effort to address these priorities. These issues have been researched and identified as specific problems and we aim to tackle and reduce the issues providing feedback to the residents associations of progress made.

We are also aware that there are other issues affecting local residents. We would encourage attendance at local community meetings where you will have the opportunity to speak with your local police officer regarding issues in your area. Details of your local meeting can be found on Lothian & Borders Police website at

[http://www.lbp.police.uk/my\\_neighbourhood/edinburgh/craigmillar-portobello.aspx](http://www.lbp.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/edinburgh/craigmillar-portobello.aspx)

## **New non-emergency number**

101 is the new number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number will make it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response, for example to:

- Speak to your local police officer
- Report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
- Get crime prevention advice
- Make us aware of any policing issues in your area

101 will replace our current non-emergency number/s and provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It costs a flat rate of 15p per call from both landline and mobile networks, no matter how long you are on the phone or what time of day it is.

When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

By having one easy number to remember, 101 should make the police more accessible while reducing pressure on the 999 system.

Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers can access the service via TextRelay on **1 800 1 101**.

**In an emergency always dial 999 – when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.**

## **Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)**

The SNT continue to listen to your concerns and endeavour to tackle and/or find solutions to areas of complaint. If you wish to raise a concern regarding matters in your street please get in touch.

You can contact your community policing team on:

**Tel: 0131 652 4147 (office)**

**Tel: 0131 311 3131 (24hours)**

**email: [ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk)**