



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 308th meeting held on 29th April 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Caroline Hosking, Nelson Johnstone, Peter McColl, Ben McLeish, Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Leon Thompson, Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

Apologies: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Robert Gatliff (Joppa Tennis Courts), Lawrence Marshall (POPP), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), Cllr David Walker, Anne Ward (PCATS),

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Malcolm Bett, Gillian Dunn, Carole Fisher, Sheila Gilmour MP, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Jane Milne, and other members of the public.

308.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that Portobello Open Doors had withdrawn from the Community Council and Joe Madden would no longer be representing the group. Everyone thanked Joe for his contribution, in particular his work in setting up the Community Council web-site.

308.2 Police Report

Due to illness no report was presented but one had been issued (see appended).

308.3 Environment update

Sean Watters summarised the March Environmental Report (see appended). The Prom markings were expected to be carried out in mid-May. Katie Quinn was moving to a new department within the Council at the end of April and the Community Council thanked her for her work.

308.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were changes suggested to item 307.7 (Review of the Scheme for Community Councils), including a note of Cllr Walker's comments suggested by Archie Burns. With these changes the minutes of the March meeting were approved; proposed by Maria Devoy, seconded by Sandra Blake.

308 .5 Matters arising

308.5a Noise from football pitches (307.5a). John Stewart had received no reply from Robert Gatliff as yet.

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

308.5b Treasurer (307.5c): The Baptist Church were suggesting a rise in hall rental from £15 to £20 per booking, rising to £40 over the longer term.

308.5c Alcohol Consultation (307.5d): Sean Watters would report back with more information in due course.

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

308.5d Waste and Recycling (307.9): Katie Quinn had suggested contacting Waste Service directly regarding a presentation on recycling and waste.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Waters to liaise with Waste Service regarding a presentation.**

308.6 Agree AOB

The following items for discussion were suggested: the May AGM; a joint PCC/CCC community grant bid for an art event; the High School Photography exhibition; the City of Edinburgh Local Plan; Timebank; PCATS (Portobello Campaign Against the Superstore).

308.7 Community Engagement

Jane Milne from COEC gave a presentation on community engagement with examples of consultation carried out by community councils elsewhere in the city. She noted the value of the National Standards for Community Engagement, the importance of clarity, and the need to report back on outcomes.

There followed a discussion in which some concerns were raised about the difficulties of consulting properly, the limited resources given to community councils, reaching seldom heard groups, and worries about possible bias if consultation isn't carried out properly. Jane Milne acknowledged that there were always challenges with consultation but that a Consultation Framework would soon be available that could be used as a toolkit. In addition there was a budget available to community councils, to assist with consultations, and Graham Rowan could be contacted for more information on this.

308.8 Brighton Place setts

Works to the Brighton Place road surface was due to be carried out this financial year, raising a number of issues. Whilst there was general agreement that the setts added much to the character of the Conservation Area, the road had deteriorated rapidly the last time the setts had been re-laid and was currently a hazard, in particular to cyclists. There was also considerable noise and vibration to local residents, caused by buses in particular. There was concern that the road might rapidly deteriorate once again, and that a durable long-term solution was required. Various suggestions were made including having a mixed surface, introducing cycle paths on the road, or widening pavements to accommodate them. It was agreed that the Council should consult thoroughly with local people on the issue, with detailed information on possible options, as well as looking at the timing and management of the works to minimise any adverse effect on local traders. It was also felt important to prioritise finding the best solution, notwithstanding the budget that had currently been allocated. Sean Watters agreed to write to the Council raising these issues.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Waters to write to COEC, having circulated a draft for comment.**

308.9 Reports

308.9a Treasurer: The account balance currently stood at £1,773.05. An insurance payment of £210.22 was due shortly under the block insurance arranged by CEOC. The next grant of £800 was due around August/September.

308.9b Neighbourhood Partnership: Next meeting: 6:30pm, 29th May, at the East Neighbourhood Centre, Niddrie Mains Road.

308.9c Planning: No report.

308.9d Signs & plaques: A plaque for the architect William Hay was being progressed. One of the coade stone pillars had suffered some slight damage but a repair was being arranged.

308.9e Community Centre: The next meeting was Tuesday 14th April, at the Community Centre.

308.9f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

308.9g Councillors: No reports.

308.10 AOB

308.10a May AGM: John Stewart reported that, in an election year, community councils have the option to postpone the re-election of office bearer's, from the AGM to after the election. It was agreed to re-elect office bearers after the elections in October. Also, Maria Devoy and Diana Cairns agreed to arrange refreshments for the AGM.

- ◆ **Action: Maria Devoy to arrange food, Diana Cairns drink, for the May AGM.**

308.10b PCC/CCC joint bid: Cllr Child suggested that Portobello and Craigmillar Community Councils might put in a joint bid to the Community Grants Fund to support an exhibition of the work of visually impaired local artist Anne Dignan, "Interactive Harmony". It was suggested that, in addition to the libraries, it might be good for any such exhibition to tour a variety of places. Cllr Child agreed come back with more information.

- ◆ **Action: Cllr Child to provide further details.**

308.10c High School photography exhibition: Nick Stroud encouraged everyone to visit the exhibition of photography by High School pupils at the Dalriada.

308.10d COEC Local Plan: The proposed Local Plan had been finalised and comments were being sought up till June 14th. It was agreed that those individuals who had commented on sections of the Main Issues report would look at the final proposals to see what had been incorporated, and report at the next meeting.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Waters to circulate information to assist.**

308.10e Timebank: Sean Watters reported that those working on setting up a Timebank in the local area were close to launch and were keen to give a presentation to the Community Council. Given that the May meeting was the AGM it was agreed that June would perhaps be better.

- ◆ **Action: Timebank presentation to be scheduled for the June meeting.**

308.10f PCATS: Lee Kindness raised an issue regarding PCATS. The Chair ruled that this item was not competent as the conduct of local interest groups was not a Community Council matter.

308.11 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 27th May 2013 (309)

Subsequent dates are: 24th June 2013 (310)

26th August 2013 (311)

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

Environment Update for March meeting:

- Work has begun on the new railings in Rosefield Park. The first set of railings are currently being installed; and should be completed shortly. The second set of railings will be installed later this summer
- Pittville Street Lane will be temporarily closed to traffic and parking between 22 – 26 April, for emergency road works to be carried out to subsidence within the street. Pedestrian and emergency services access will be maintained throughout; and letters have been sent to residents to advise them about the road works
- There are lots of community clean-ups being arranged at the moment, with one of the most recent being in Figgate Park. Pupils from Portobello High School teamed up with staff from Seafield McDonalds on 17 April to litter pick and remove rubbish from the park. There are more clean ups scheduled shortly for Lochend Park, Figgate Park,, Rosefield Park and Brighton Park. If anyone would be interested in organising a clean-up themselves, information is available on the Council's [website](#)
- The next Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum meeting will be held on 1 May at 6:30pm in the East Neighbourhood Centre. As always, all are welcome to attend.

Lastly, at the end of this month I will be leaving the East Environment Team for a role in a different department within the Council. There will be another member of staff working within my post shortly, but the next month's environment update will be forwarded to you by the new East Environment Manager, Karen Reeves. If there is anything environment related I can help with up until 30 April, please let me know.

Thanks

Katie

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Your policing priorities

Craigmillar Portobello Community Policing Team (CPT) is the new name for the SNT under Police Scotland. At present we have the same remit and responsibilities and we can now be contacted electronically at

EdinburghPortobelloCraigmillarCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

The 0131 652 4147 number is still in use for contacting Craigmillar Police Station directly and the new national 101 phone number has been launched for all non-emergency calls.

Under Police Scotland the nationally identified priorities are,

1. Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour
2. Protecting the Public
3. Road Safety and Road Crime
4. Serious Organized Crime and Terrorism
5. Major Events and Threats

with a focus on 'Keeping People Safe.'

Within the Craigmillar Portobello area and from the 1st May 2013, Inspector Roddy Hardy takes over the Sector Inspector duties for the ward and later that month, Chief Inspector Sara Buchanan will take up her role replacing Chief Inspector Bob Paris. Sergeant Nigel Bathgate has also joined the team and will be covering day-to-day supervisory duties along with Sergeant John Young.

The multi-member ward Policing Plan for the Portobello Craigmillar area has identified the following key priorities for the area.

1. Antisocial behaviour
2. House-breaking and other theft
3. Drug-dealing and misuse
4. Assault and violent crime

These broad priorities are the result of public consultation and the full plan is available on the Police Scotland website.

Crime Update

During April 2013 there has been 28 crimes reported in the Portobello/Joppa area.

The following is a breakdown of these crimes by type,

- Assault Minor – 8 (two of these are related to one incident)
- Theft Housebreaking related to Domestic properties – 6
- Theft Housebreaking related to business properties – 2

- Vandalism – 1
- Theft Pedal Cycle – 2
- Crime against Motor vehicles – 3
- Theft and Theft Shoplifting – 2
- Miscellaneous offences - 4

Majority of the offences would appear to have been committed in the area east of Portobello Police Station and north of Milton Road East.

As a comparison, over the same period last year there were 51 reported crimes.

Vehicle Accidents

Over the same April period there have been three reported vehicle accidents in the relevant area, which were all Damage Only. Two were on Portobello High Street and the third in Windsor Place.

As a comparison, over the same period last year there were 2 reported Vehicular Accidents.

Current priorities

1. Detect and prevent those using motorbikes illegally on Greendykes Road.

A substantial report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal regarding the use of motorbikes on the waste ground at Greendykes. Over the course of the priority five motorbikes/quad bikes have been seized or recovered after a theft. Eight persons in total have been reported to the PF for various RTA offences and four persons reported for assaults on emergency services. Calls to the police regarding this have dropped in previous months from 16 in January, 15 in February, 5 in March and 3 in April so far.

2. Provide advice to prevent thefts from property and vehicles in the Cleekim area.

Officers have conducted numerous high-visibility and plain clothes patrols in the Cleekim area at previously identified hotspot times. Where appropriate, persons were stopped, searched and checked out on police systems and relevant intelligence entries were submitted. There were 3 reports of thefts in both February and March and to date none have been reported during April.

3. Tackle and reduce inconsiderate and dangerous parking at Brunstane Primary School

Numerous high visibility patrols have been carried out in and around Brunstane Primary School since the last meeting. The local officer has liaised with staff at the school and it was decided to close the gates to the school car park to stop parents from parking in and around the entrance. During the patrols advice was given to several motorists regarding inconsiderate use of their vehicles. To date, staff at the school have noticed a reduction in the problem, however the local officer will continue to monitor the situation.

If you have any questions or require any further information then please contact the office via the details