



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 309th meeting held on 27th May 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

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

Apologies: Nelson Johnstone, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Nick Stroud, Anne Ward (PCATS),

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

309.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart announced that both Andrew Patterson and Nelson Johnstone had stepped down from the Community Council, and thanked them both for their contribution.

309.2 Police Report

No report.

309.3 Environment update

Sean Watters summarised the April Environmental Report (see appended). Also, there had been a delay to the Prom markings. They were now expected to be carried out in mid-June.

309.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were changes suggested to item 308.10f (AOB). With these changes the minutes of the April meeting were approved; proposed by Dawson Currie, seconded by Ros Sutherland.

309 .5 Matters arising

309.5a Noise from football pitches (308.5a). Robert Gatliff had received no further information. No further action.

309.5b Alcohol Consultation (308.5c): Sean Watters had done some further work on a possible alcohol consultation but in the light of the presentation at the last meeting he was seeking advice from Jane Milne on effective engagement.

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

309.5b Waste and Recycling (308.5d): A presentation on recycling and waste had been arranged for the June meeting. Sean Watters asked that if anyone had particular questions or information on certain things, could people let him know so he could pass that information on prior to the presentation.

- ◆ **Action: Queries to Sean Watters on waste & recycling, prior to June presentation.**

309.5d Brighton Place setts (308.8): Sean Watters had written to the Roads Department as agreed. Cllr Child reported that there had been a decision to delay works to the following financial year. Whilst the poor condition of the road at present was a concern, this delay would hopefully allow for a thorough consultation on the works to be carried out, and detailed planning to minimise disruption.

309.5e May AGM (308.10a): Maria Devoy and Diana Cairns had arranged refreshments for the AGM.

309.5f PCC/CCC joint bid: (308.10b): Grants were being considered at Wednesday's meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership. Cllr Child would report back if funding was still required in some way to support the art exhibition "Interactive Harmony".

309.5g COEC Local Plan (308.10d): Information had been circulated by John Stewart.

309.5h Timebank (308.10e): Presentation scheduled for the June meeting.

309.6 Agree AOB

The following items for discussion were suggested: Maggie's Centres, the Portobello Heritage Trust, and Christmas decorations.

309.7 Local Plan

COEC had published the new draft Local Plan, with comments to be submitted by June 14th. A number of items were discussed that caused some concern including; the proposal to introduce differing supplementary guidance for retail provision in different town centres, allowing affordable housing to be provided off-site, the new policies on waste management, the allocation of more housing on greenbelt land, and in particular an increased housing allocation at Newcraighall. David Hewitt of Newcraighall Residents' Association voiced concerns about the latter. Cllr Child advised that the amount of housing allocated in the draft plan resulted from policies driven by central government, with Local Authorities being required to identify and include all possible sites required over a 25 year period. There was a concern that this could hamper development on existing brownfield sites, but that if the Local Plan didn't reflect strategic policy Developers would simply win planning permission on appeal. After discussion a number of action points were agreed.

- ◆ **Action: Ben McLeish and David Hewitt to report back on resident's views of the Newcraighall proposals.**
- ◆ **Action: Peter McColl to write regarding housing policy concerns to Derek MacKay MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning, having circulated a draft for comment.**
- ◆ **Action: Diana Cairns to respond to COEC, having circulated a draft for comment.**

309.8 Planning Concordat

COEC had produced a new draft Planning Concordat for how major development proposals would be handled, setting out the different roles of the Planning Authority, Developers, and Community Councils. Whilst clearly setting out responsibilities was welcome, concerns were expressed that additional burdens and expectations were being placed on Community Councils that relied upon volunteers and had limited resources in time, money and expertise. Whilst the Concordat did set out a requirement for COEC to provide "resources for wider engagement" it was unclear the level of resources that would be made available, and to what purposes such resources could be put. For example, would training and assistance with planning matters be provided, or a Community Council Planning Liaison Officer? Given the complexity of planning issues some felt more support was needed in this area. A view was also expressed that the core purpose of a Community Council was to reflect the views of the community, so community consultation should be the prime focus when looking at how to respond to a development proposal. After discussion, it was agreed that the Concordat raised a number of issues that required further clarification.

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

309.9 Reports

309.9a Treasurer: See AGM report.

309.9b Neighbourhood Partnership: Next meeting: 6:30pm, 29th May, at the East Neighbourhood Centre, Niddrie Mains Road.

309.9c Planning: Barrat Homes had planned a consultation event for 19th June, 4:40-8:30 pm, at Newcraighall Primary School, regarding proposed housing at Newcraighall north.

309.9d Signs & plaques: Portobello Amenity Society, supported by PCC, had submitted an application to Scot-mid for funding towards the plaque for William Hay. Celia Butterworth reported that the album "Coade Stone Pillars" placed on Porty Online was not transferred to the CC web-site and has been lost. Bob Jefferson will try to find the album photos when time allows. Lee Kindness also pointed out that the meeting Agenda had never been posted up on the Community Council web-site. This was an oversight. As Joe Madden had left the Community Council, Archie Burns volunteered to help with loading documents onto the web-site.

309.9e Community Centre: The next meeting was Tuesday 11th June, at the Community Centre.

309.9f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

309.9g Councillors: Cllr Bridgman had attended the Licensing Board meeting that day and confirmed that La Favorita had been granted an off-sales licence.

309.10 AOB

309.10a Maggie's Centres: Cllr Child raised a proposal to have a Maggie's Day for Portobello, as a focus for fundraising events over a year towards Maggie's Centres. A presentation on the subjects was suggested for the august meeting.

- ◆ **Action: "Maggie's Day" to be discussed at the August meeting.**

309.10b Portobello Heritage Trust: It was agreed to renew the Community Council's membership of the Portobello Heritage Trust.

- ◆ **Action: Leon Thompson and John Stewart to arrange payment of subscription.**

309.10c Christmas Decorations: Colin Cuthbert suggested that if the Community Council were to consider different Christmas decorations on the High Street, it would be better to do so sooner rather than later.

- ◆ **Action: Christmas decorations to be an item for the June agenda.**

309.11 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 24th June 2013 (310)

Subsequent dates are: 26th August 2013 (311)
30th September 2013 (312)

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

May Environment Update:

- An event was held at Rosefield Park on Saturday 11th May to celebrate the new facilities in the park. The Portobello Petanque Club and the Edinburgh Basketball squad were there to show off their skills and do some coaching. There was also story-telling and a chainsaw carver. A wooden creature was made for the park and will be installed shortly.

- The Pittville Street Lane works have been completed. The Scottish Power works at Portobello High Street at Windsor Place are also complete. Temporary traffic lights are now in place on Joppa Road, at the pumping station, for approximately 3 weeks to allow installation of a new sewer.

- There has been a number of successful community clean-ups in the area (Rosefield Pk, Brighton Pk and Figgate Pk) and we would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to come along and help out.

- The next Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum will be on 5 June at 6:30pm in the East Neighbourhood Centre. All welcome.

I hope you find this information helpful. Let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards

Karen

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