



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 310<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

**Present:** Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Caroline Hosking, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Ben McLeish, Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council).

**Apologies:** Tom Ballantine, Celia Butterworth, Maria Devoy, Leon Thompson, Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association), Cllr David Walker.

**In attendance:** Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, David Arnold, Colin Cuthbert, Angela Downie, Norma Brotherstone, Gillian Dunn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Gordon McCulloch and other members of the public.

### 310.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 310.2 Police Report

No report.

### 310.3 Environment update

Sean Watters summarised the June Environmental Report (see appended). The following issues were raised.

- There were ongoing problems with ponding on the Prom and at the bus stop on the High Street near Williamson's. Would action be taken to resolve these problems?
- The Prom marking had still not been done. When would these be completed?
- At the previous meeting Archie Burns had raised concerns about the condition of the Prom mosaics at Bridge Street. Would these be repaired? Would they be affected by the adjacent flat development?
- On the Prom at the bottom of John Street there was a redundant sign pole. Would this be removed or re-used?

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to raise the above matters with the Environment Team.**

### 310.4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the AGM were approved: proposed by Diana Cairns, seconded by Brenda Molony. The minutes of the May meeting were approved: proposed by Sandra Blake, seconded by Ann Ward.

### 310 .5 Matters arising

**310.5a** Alcohol Consultation (309.5b): Sean Watters had met with Jane Milne to discuss a possible alcohol consultation, and they had begun to develop more detailed proposals.

✿ **Action: To be discussed in more detail at the September meeting.**

**310.5b Waste and Recycling (309.5b):** The scheduled presentation on recycling and waste had had to be cancelled. Sean Watters to reschedule, ideally in August. Caroline Hosking asked for the Bridge Street bins to be flagged up as an issue.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to rearrange a presentation on waste and recycling.**

**310.5c Timebank (308.10e):** The scheduled presentation had had to be cancelled. Sean Watters to see about rearranging it for September

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to rearrange a presentation on Timebank.**

**310.5d Local Plan (309.7):** Ben McLeish and David Hewitt had reported local residents' views on the Newcraighall proposals. Diana Cairns had responded to COEC regarding the Local Plan. It was thought that Peter McColl had not yet written to Derek MacKay MSP.

- ✿ **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.**

**310.5e Planning Concordat (309.8):** John Stewart had responded to COEC as discussed.

**310.5f Maggie's Centres (309.10a):** Cllr Child to pass on contact details to allow Sean Watters to arrange a presentation on the topic at the August meeting.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to arrange a presentation on Maggie's Day for August.**

**310.5g Portobello Heritage Trust (309.10b):** PCC's subscription had been paid.

## **310.6 Agree AOB**

The following items were suggested: the indoor bowling centre, the archaeological dig at the old harbour, and Stephen Hawkins had an announcement regarding a public talk. A member of the public raised a concern about a change of address adopted by the Council that was not recognised by the Royal Mail. Cllr Child agreed to look into the matter.

- ✿ **Action: Cllr Child to look into problems with a change of address.**

## **310.7 Christmas Lights**

The issue of Christmas lights was discussed. Whilst it was generally felt that the decorations could be much improved on, there was a concern that significant costs could be involved, and that expenditure of this kind did not meet the core purposes of the grant provided to Community Councils. It was agreed that the first thing to do was to clarify with COEC whether the decorations could be changed or added to out of existing budgets.

- ✿ **Action: Diana Cairns to contact COEC regarding Christmas Lights.**

## **310.8 Reports**

**310.8a Treasurer:** The balance currently stood at £1,823.05.

**310.8b Neighbourhood Partnership:** Cllr Bridgman advised that the last Neighbourhood Partnership meeting the following items had been discussed: Castlebrae HS, Portobello HS, school holidays, and the Community Grants Fund. Next meeting: 6:30pm, 11<sup>th</sup> September, location to be confirmed.

**310.8c Planning:** A planning application for a Debenhams at Fort Kinnaird had been submitted. There was general support for this as Fort Kinnaird was an important retail area that supported many local jobs. It was agreed to write in support.

◆ **Action: Ben McLeish to write in support of the Planning application.**

An application had been submitted to the Planning Department regarding the indoor bowling centre and a change of use to a gymnastics and soft play centre. The purpose and nature of the application was unclear as information on the Planning Portal was very limited. It was also unclear what prior consultation had been undertaken and whether a definite decision to change the use of the building had been taken. Whilst there were different views on whether a change of use could be justified, it was agreed that it was difficult to come to a firm view without more information being available, in particular relating to consultation undertaken, usage of the bowling centre, running costs, subsidies, and the demand for leisure services in general. It was decided to request more information from Edinburgh Leisure and the Planning Department.

◆ **Action: Diana Cairns to ask the Planning Department about the nature of the application submitted.**

◆ **Action: John Stewart to request more information from Edinburgh Leisure regarding the proposed changes.**

**310.8d Signs & plaques:** No report.

**310.8e Community Centre:** No report.

**310.8f Joppa Tennis Courts:** Joppa Tennis Courts were running “pay and play” sessions over the summer, Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-5:00pm.

**310.8g Councillors:** Cllr Bridgman reported on outcomes from the latest Licensing Board meeting. He also encouraged people to support the ‘Go Edinburgh’ bid for a National Sports Centre to be located in the city.

## **310.9 AOB**

**310.9a The old harbour:** A public open evening was being held at the archaeological dig at the old harbour on Thursday, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

**310.9b Heritage talk:** Stephen Hawkins gave details of a heritage talk on political agitation in Portobello in the 1880s, to be held in the Baptist Church hall the following evening.

**310.9c Traffic management:** A member of the public raised concerns about traffic in the Bath Street, Regent Street, Marlborough Street area, and whether a one-way scheme could be introduced in some way. It was noted that the previous consultation on proposals had proved inconclusive, but as there were still widespread concerns about access and safety the issue would be looked at again by COEC.

## **310.10 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 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013 (311)

Subsequent dates are: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (312)  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2013 (313)

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

## **June Environment Update:**

- Wildflower meadows are being created in a number of parks in the area; including Figgate Park, Rosefield Park and Joppa Quarry Park. Some of these are part of the National Urban Pollinator Project (e.g Joppa Quarry Park), whilst the others are being done by our Community Parks Officer Scott Thomson.
- The temporary traffic lights on Joppa Road, at the pumping station, have now been removed. The works are now moving up Coillesdene Drive. These works are for the installation of a new sewer. Along the Prom repairs have been made to the ramp at Pipe Street and at the surface at the bottom of John Street.
- The new benches for the bandstand have arrived and should be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- Our Summer Action Programme is underway. One of the key focuses will be the removal of rubbish from the burns in the area. If anybody knows of any particular areas that need cleared please let me know. We have also gathered a number of actions from the recent Portobello and Craigmillar Environment Forum, which will be carried out over the next couple of weeks.

Kind regards

Karen

Karen Reeves, Local Environment Manager, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council, East Neighbourhood Centre, Business Centre 2.01, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4DS 0131 469 5196