



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 319th meeting held on 26th May 2014.

Present: Mark Cameron, Maria Devoy, Bob Jefferson, Geoff Lynn, David Medcalf, Thea McMillan, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Clare Slifer.

Apologies: Max Blinkhorn, Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Gillian Eunson, Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Saul Kenrick (Woodcraft), Lee Kindness, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Ben McLeish, Eva Schonfeld (PEDAL), Sgt John Young (Police).

In attendance: Cllr David Walker, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Michael Bridgman, and members of the public.

319.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the PCC received a considerable volume of information, much of it made available on the PCC's website, Facebook or Twitter account. He drew attention to the 2013 Edinburgh People Survey, showing high levels of satisfaction overall, but a decrease when it came to public transport, dog fouling, and the state of footpaths. He noted that COEC would be putting in place further Planning training events for Community Councils and finally that the AGM had been moved back to the June meeting.

319.2 Police Report

Sgt Young had sent his apologies. A report would be circulated in due course.

319.3 Environment Report

The pedestrian crossing at Abercorn Terrace was expected to be implemented in late summer. A problem with accessibility/drop kerbs/ keep clear areas had been raised and these were being looked at with a view to raising them with the Environment Forum.

319.4 Big Things on the Beach

Jan Killeen gave a brief outline of the work of Big Things On the Beach over the past 10 years, in promoting socially inclusive, accessible art projects. They currently had a funding application lodged with Creative Scotland and were planning an event for 25th October at the Washhouse, celebrating their work to date and introducing their Garden Gallery 2015 project. They had also put work into a Promenade public art strategy and were keen to develop this. The PCC thanked Jan for her presentation and agreed to publicise future developments.

319.5 Dementia Friendly Portobello

Jan Killeen gave an update on the Dementia Friendly Portobello initiative, under an Edinburgh wide umbrella. Various materials had been produced to raise awareness of issues, as well as a toolkit for use at local level. A steering group had been set up to ensure that work was done to a common standard and there was also an open meeting planned for June 23 in the Dalriada at 7:30pm for the sharing of ideas. An environmental audit was also planned to establish a benchmark of the current experiences of people with dementia in the community. It was noted that this linked to other concerns raised with the PCC regarding the experience of those with disabilities locally and problems of accessibility, and that there could perhaps be a useful cross flow of information as the project developed. Jan Killeen was thanked for her update.

319.6 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed.

319.6a Prom Markings (318.5a): Awaiting response from COEC regarding queries.

✿ Action: Awaiting a response from COEC

319.6b Richard Demarco (318.5b): ideas on a possible event were being developed.

✿ Action: Ongoing

319.6c Cycling on the Prom (318.5c): CEC Access Officer had responded suggesting a meeting on site, although he had suggested there were no easy solutions. It was agreed to explore the matter further.

✿ Action: Further discussion with Access Officer

319.6d Referendum Event (317.5i): Agenda item.

319.6e Parking problems and accessibility (318.5e): SW had contacted Andy Matheson and Andrew MacLeod.

✿ Action: Awaiting a response from COEC

319.6f Beach Consultation (318.6): Agenda Item.

319.7 Beach Consultation

The report analysing responses to the consultation had been published and David Medcalf ran through a summary, followed by a discussion. Whilst it was clear that many people had concerns about irresponsible behaviour there were mixed opinions about what could be done about it. It was suggested that a greater presence of Environmental Wardens in the busy summer period might help, but Cllrs noted the limited resource. There was a view that a voluntary zoning restriction on the beach could be trialled for a limited period, but there was also a concern that, given the lack of consensus from the consultation, that could be difficult to justify. It was agreed that a positive campaign, encouraging good behaviour from all users of the Beach and Prom, might be a better approach. It was agreed that those who had contributed to the “dogs” group could take that forward, with input from the Consultation sub-committee.

✿ Action: develop a ‘Beach Code’ encouraging positive behaviour.

319.8 Referendum Event

Sean Watters had met with Angus Hardie of the Scottish Community Alliance. They’d hosted a few events now and were happy with the format. They’d generally had meetings of 30-40 people, but though the sensible maximum would be 50-60. All that was required was a venue that could sit people 4-5 at a table each, and perhaps some assistants if the numbers were at the high end. July was difficult in terms of availability so it was agreed to look for available venues in August.

✿ Action: Sean Watters to look at possible venues.

319.9 Eric Lomax

As part of the PCC’s ongoing work raising the profile of Brunstane Station, the group had met with John Yellowlees, ScotRail’s External Relations Manager, who had noted the local connection to Eric Lomax “the

Railway Man.” Nick Stroud had been seeking a plaque to commemorate Eric Lomax for some time and now, thanks to Scotrail, one was to be installed in Bedford Terrace. To celebrate the event Nick Stroud had organised a small lunchtime reception in the Dalriada, hosted by Kenny MacAskill MSP and with Eric Lomax’s daughter Charmaine as the guest of honour. He had unsuccessfully sought funding elsewhere to cover the cost of the event (£400-500) and had asked if the PCC would be willing to make a contribution. Given it was a celebration of a remarkable local figure, an opportunity to boost the profile of Portobello given the current media interest in Eric Lomax, as well as chance to publicise the steps taken to adopt Brunstane Station as the destination for “Edinburgh’s Seaside”, it was agreed to donate £100 towards the cost of the event.

✿ **Action: £100 donation to Eric Lomax event.**

319.10 Consultation Sub-Committee

Thea McMillan and Gillian Eunson had attended the last Saturday session in Scotmid and had received lots of positive suggestions for beach improvements, and a meeting was being arranged soon with Jane Milne of COEC in particular to look at connecting with young people.

319.11 Reports

319.11a Treasurer’s Report: Current balance stood at £2152.63. It was noted that the rental for the hall had now increased from £150 to £200 per year.

319.11b Neighbourhood Partnership: Recent grant awards to Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club and Big Things on the Beach were noted. Graeme Rowan also noted a planned joint Community Council meeting between Portobello and Craigmillar that would be an opportunity to consider the Local Development Plan.

319.11c Planning: Cruden and Aldi were submitting a PAN with a public consultation meeting planned for June 18th. They were seeking a possible meeting with PCC representatives on Tuesday June 3rd and Geoff Pearson, Secretary of Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council, suggested they be involved too. It was agreed to arrange a meeting and involve N&WCC.

✿ **Action: confirm meeting with Cruden/Aldi.**

319.11d Councillors: Cllr Walker noted the proposed changes to the Local Development Plan and the possibility of an additional 1200 houses at Brunstane/Newhailes. Proposals would be going to the Planning Committee shortly for consideration, with a consultation to follow. Cllr Bridgman noted the successful restoration of the kiln and congratulated the Portobello Heritage Trust for all their work towards it and their celebration event.

319.12 AOB

None.

319.13 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 30th June 2014 (320)

Subsequent dates are: 25th August 2014 (321)

30th September 2014 (322)

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

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