



## Minutes of the 320<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

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**Present:** Max Blinkhorn, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Gillian Eunson, Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Thea MacMillan, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sean Watters, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Clare Slifer.

**Apologies:** Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Bob Jefferson, Saul Kenrick (Woodcraft), Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Ben McLeish, David Medcalf, Eva Schonfeld (PEDAL), Sgt John Young (Police)

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

### 320.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

As a late addition to the agenda but in light of the PCC not meeting until August, Gillian Anderson of the newly amalgamated Portobello and Joppa Parish Church was invited to speak.

Gillian stated that the three churches are to become a united congregation from 1<sup>st</sup> August this year. While the Church of Scotland are retaining all three sites until such time as they agree on what facilities are needed in the future, the congregation will be worshipping in St Philips Church – to be known as Portobello and Joppa Parish Church. In September 2015 suggestions are to be proposed as to the uses for the halls. In the meantime, the church buildings are to be closed but the halls will remain open. Stuart Weaver is to remain as minister for the newly amalgamated parish. Stuart has a document outlining the current hall usage.

**ACTION Clare Slifer to contact Stuart Weaver to request the information on current hall usage.**

### 320.2 Police Report

Sgt Young had sent his apologies. A report would be circulated in due course. Geoff Lynn stated that in having read the report, there were no significant issues. Cllr Bridgman stated that the Commonwealth Games would put a strain on police resources in the coming weeks as many police would be in attendance in Glasgow.

### 320.3 Environmental Report

The closure of the Harry Lauder Road for essential maintenance work to the overhead pylons had been problematic for residents. It was stated that no notice had been given for this work to the PCC.

**ACTION Sean Watters to investigate why no notice was provided for this closure.**

Maria Devoy stated that the Christians path had become significantly overgrown with brambles and nettles. **Andrew MacLeod to be notified.**



Marjorie Thomas queried the role of the Environment Forum. Cllr Bridgman stated that the Environment Forum is a sub-committee of the Neighbourhood Partnership, of which there are 8 sub-groups in total. Currently all subgroups correspondence is emailed directly to the PCC Secretary. Emma suggested that a single member of the PCC be emailed directly by one subgroup in order to lessen the Secretary's burden and spread the responsibility of monitoring important issues within the PCC.

Cllr Child stated that the attendance of Environment Forum meetings was in the strategic planning/discussion of issues such as grass cutting programme etc. Issues of specific local environment eg the Christians path overgrowth can be reported directly to Andrew MacLeod.

**ACTION : PCC to discuss further the roles within the PCC and report back.  
Christians path to be reported to Andrew MacLeod.**

## **320.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes were generally agreed. Single item of Kiln reconstruction celebration to be noted as "success" within previous minutes.

**ACTION : amend previous minutes.**

Matters Arising:

320.4a Prom Markings (319.6a): Awaiting response from COEC regarding queries.

**Action: Awaiting a response from COEC**

320.4b Richard Demarco (319.6b): Ongoing. Agenda Item 320.7

**Action: Ongoing**

320.4c Cycling on the Prom (319.6c): 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**

320.4d Referendum Event (319.6d): Ongoing

320.4e Parking problems and accessibility (319.6e): SW had contacted Andy Matheson and Andrew MacLeod.

**Action: Awaiting a response from COEC**

320.4f Beach Consultation (319.6f): Agenda Item 320.10.

## **320.5 Local Development Plan**

The second draft of the Local Development Plan, a single development plan for the city's proposed growth and development, its spatial strategy, has gone in front of the Planning committee.

Cllr Child stated that the greenfield site proposed in Brunstane (see LDP plans on PCC website) has potentially 'horrific' impact on traffic. The infrastructure required to make this site viable is also preclusive. These specific issues are strong arguments in favour of campaigning for the removal of this site from the LDP. The comments and objections received from Portobello and neighbouring areas was helpful in identifying local resistance to the site's inclusion in the LDP to the Planning committee.

Lee Kindness stated that in August, a 6 week period begins when formal representation from the PCC could be made. Once more detailed timescales are known, an objective statement of the proposals are to be written by the PCC to allow consultation to commence. The results of this consultation would form the basis of the PCCs representation to the Planning committee.

Stephen Dishon queried how the PCC could object to the LDP if there was local support for new housing.



Cllr Walker stated that the PCC's report to the planning committee would have to be tied into planning policy in order to be relevant and supported.

Cllr Bridgman suggested that the PCC could submit a joint report with the Craigmillar community council.

The Convenor of Planning has called a meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Terry Dobson to attend. Lee Kindness will advise if he is also able to attend.

## 320.6 Baileyfield Development

An emailed update from the Planning Consultants for the Aldi/Cruden pre-planning consultation was summarised by Geoff Lynn:

"...We were extremely pleased with the attendance, both at the preview event for community councillors, elected members and other community representatives and at the public exhibition.

The public event was attended by an estimated 350 people. 300 leaflets were distributed on the day with 110 forms handed in, since when a further 22 have been received via freepost. From the feedback received, the figures currently are:

supportive: 71%  
neutral: 18%  
not supportive: 11%

The main issues being traffic and displaced Out of the Blue artists, both of which we are addressing by way of a TIA report which will be submitted with the applications and further dialogue between Out of the Blue and CEC Economic Development.

The team is still working on design details for the development and we are also in dialogue with a number of interested groups including Out of the Blue, Towerbank Primary School and Portobello Amenity Society.

We are extremely grateful for your interest and help in promoting the details of our scheme to the wider community via social media etc. We will continue to keep you up-to-date with progress. Meanwhile, does the community council meet over the summer or do you go into recess?

Kind regards  
James Harbison & Company  
Strategic Planning & Project Communications"

John Stewart queried whether the PCC would be submitting a report to the Planning department.

Lee Kindness stated that once analysis could be made of the submissions made to the consultation, the PCC would be in a position to make a representation ie. after the 12 week Pre-Application Consultation period was over.

## 320.7 Richard DeMarco Event

Update on a proposed Richard Demarco Lecture and request for a £150 budget allocation.

It is proposed that Richard Demarco give a lecture in EH15 on his work and life.

Maria Devoy stated that they had been looking at the Edinburgh College as a local venue with fantastic lecture hall and projection facilities. The college has agreed to provide facilities for free and subsidise 50% of the refreshments budget for the event.



Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September has been provisionally booked and a small EH15 restaurant booked for after the event. The venue can host 96 people and the event is to be ticketed.

It was agreed that some tickets be allocated to organisers/sponsors eg the College, and the rest be made available on a first come first served basis.

Maria requested help from PCC members for the creation of advertising material, poster design, tickets and photography at the event. A request of £150 for light refreshments after the event was made.

Lee Kindness to take on design and production of graphic material.

Max Blinkhorn agreed to photographing the event.

£150 funding for light refreshments was agreed.

**ACTION : Maria to liaise with Lee Kindness and Max Blinkhorn and to advise on how many tickets to be made available to the public and where they are to be distributed.**

## **320.8 Associate Representatives**

Geoff Lynn stated that he has approached someone and was awaiting a response from them to allow them to begin an investigation of an "Open Water Swimming Safety" policy; management of the water in terms of sailing club, jet-ski usage, open water swimming etc with respect to safety.

All were happy to allow this to proceed.

## **320.9 Planning Sub-committee/group**

Emma Dempsey raised the suggestion of the creation of a defined PCC Planning sub-group.

No present members were able to commit to this at present.

Maria Devoy stated that the analysis of Planning matters were for the whole of the PCC members to be involved in, not delegated to sub-group.

Lee Kindness stated that as a matter of course he reads all Planning reports. Lee agreed to filter the planning application reports to allow everyone to remain abreast of development.

## **320.10 Consultation and Engagement Sub-committee**

Emma Dempsey stated that the Consultation and Engagement sub-committee met on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting was also attended by members of the Dog consultation members where the Dogs on the Beach consultation was discussed at length. It has been agreed that no action is therefore proposed for dog free zones on the beach due to a lack of clear remit through the consultation response.

The Scotmid Consultations are on-going and following the recent Beach Fun Day where more consultation was undertaken on improving the beach and promenade, Emma to consolidate findings and report.

A Consultation blog is also ongoing.

Lee Kindness is to undertake an online consultation on the proposed implementation of 20mph zones within Edinburgh. Up-coming Scotmid consultation to be tailored to this consultation. (Cllr Bridgman stated that the signage alone is to cost the council £2.5M)

## **320.11 Other reports**



- a. Treasurer – see attached report.
- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – nothing to report
- c. Planning – as discussed under the LDP previously
- d. Councillors – See Maureen Child's report

## 320.12 Any Other Business

1. Mark Tweedie of POD has sent an email to the PCC regarding the Village Show, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September:

“The Village Show will take place in Rosefield Park on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>. In previous years the PCC have had a stall at the show. I have heard it suggested at one of our meetings that the PCC would like to take a more active role this year which would be great !

We are open to hearing your ideas and will do our best to accommodate them. Another option is that you could run the Duck Racing?”

It was agreed that the PCC would take a stall at the village show in lieu of the monthly Scotmid consultation.

2. Geoff Lynn stated that Kenny MacAskill and Keith Brown had sent letters to the PCC regarding the Craigentiny depot. GL to scan letters and put them on the PCC website.

3. Signs and Plaques

Ownership and upkeep of the signage is to be discussed as part of the Agenda of the next PCC meeting.

4. Reconciliation : The New High School on the Park

An email from Stephen Hawkins was received questioning whether the PCC should initiate reconciliation within the community following the passing of the Private Bill on the building of the new high school on Portobello Park.

The willingness for parties on both sides to reconcile differences was discussed generally.

Emma Dempsey suggested the involvement of outside parties in a process of mediation to allow parties a better understanding of opponent feelings, could be of value.

It was felt that feelings were still running high and it was suggested that now is perhaps not the time to consider reconciliation.

Maria Devoy suggested that the involvement in the creation of new parkland on the existing school site in the future would be a positive process for the PCC to facilitate.

## 320.13 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting, 321<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Portobello Community Council to be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September (322)  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October (323)



# Portobello Community Council

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*320th PCC meeting closed.*