



Portobello Community Council

Annual Report

2016

Portobello Community Council has remained focused on its primary purpose during 2015/16 which is to consult the residents and business owners it represents and to make their views known to public authorities, service providers and other stakeholders.

To this end, the community council has concentrated on three main objectives:-

1. Raise awareness of matters of community interest
2. Encourage engagement in community matters by residents, business owners and community groups
3. Provide a voice for the community by gathering feedback and making representations (where relevant)

A mixture of online and offline methods have been deployed to achieve these aims.

- The pcc website is updated regularly with public notices, relevant community news as well as formal reports and documentation
- The Facebook page is also regularly updated with public notices and other items of community interest
- The Twitter feed is actively updated and used to share community info
- Regular email newsletters are distributed with information and links

For those who are not online

- The PCC area in Portobello Library is kept up to date
- The noticeboard network is regularly refreshed
- A column is provided for the Porty Reporter
- Consultations at ScotMid and other public events

Community councillors also liaise with community representatives, the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership and elected members in helping identify areas of priority or greatest need.

In terms of overall reach, the main headline numbers are as follows:-

Website	19,967 users
Facebook	1,963 likes
Twitter	1040 Followers
Mailing list	1,650 Subscribers
Porty Reporter	Circulation 12,500

Please see separate PCC Engagement report for more detailed statistics

Recent consultations

Portobello Community Council has assisted with or conducted a diverse range of consultations in the last 12 months, including the South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Main Issues Report, Unconventional Coal Gasification, a proposal to build on Telferton Allotments, the Portobello Conservation Area Character Appraisal, plans to reopen the Joppa Public Toilets in the summer months and the proposed demolition of the former George Cinema on Bath Street.

The headline numbers in terms of responses generated from consultation and engagement activity conducted or co-ordinated by Portobello Community Council in the period are as follows:-

	Responses
Barratt Crudens Baileyfield	54
SESPlan Main Issues Report	58
UCG	129
Telferton	46
Porty Places	68
Bouncy Castle	100
Joppa Loos (Reopen?)	55
Bouncy Castle 2	162
Bath St Bingo Hall	363

Public Notices

The PCC receives a significant volume of public notices from the City Council, Scottish Government agencies and other public bodies. These include Traffic Orders, Licensing Applications, Planning Applications, funding opportunities, consultations on public matters, meeting notices, agenda and reports. As far as possible, these notices are published on the PCC website, Facebook and Twitter feeds so that members of the public can keep up to date.

See <http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn> for more details.

Planning

Major planning matters in the period included a Pre-Application Consultation for 1000+ homes at Brunstane and the proposed demolition of the former George Cinema on Bath Street.

All planning weekly lists are published on the PCC website and can be accessed here:-
<http://www.portobelloc.org/pccpn/category/publicnotices/planning/>

Community-related Initiatives and activities

There are many hundreds of clubs, associations, voluntary groups, charities, businesses and not-for-profit organisations which contribute to the fabric of this community. The community council is just one layer of that, but we have been fortunate to have been given notice of, or been able to contribute to, a wide range of community-related initiatives and activities.

These have included: A well-attended Scottish Parliament Election Hustings in Portobello Town Hall, a popular stall at the Portobello Village Show, a revival of the annual sandcastle building competition, efforts to revitalise interest in public art, a campaign to save the Old Parish Church and Hall on Bellfield Street, discussions around a proposed beach wheelchair service for Portobello and the reinstatement of the Tidal Octopus.

Future meetings

All Portobello Community Council meetings are open to the public. Dates for your diary:-

Monday, 29 August

Monday, 26 September

Monday, 31 October

Monday, 28 November

Contact us

Email: secretary@portobelloc.org

Web: www.portobelloc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil

Twitter: [@portobelloc](https://twitter.com/portobelloc)