

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**From:**

ORDINARY MEETING OF PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE PORTOBELLO CENTRE, ADELPHI GROVE  
ON MONDAY, 9 MARCH 1992 AT 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Transport
  - 2.1 Speaker - Mr Max Thomson, Lothian Regional Council
  - 2.2 Bus Routes
  - 2.3 Other transport matters
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Matters arising
5. 1992
6. Sub-Committee Reports
7. Treasurer's Report
8. AOCB
9. Date of Next Meeting

# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 96th meeting, held on 9th March 1992 in the Portobello Centre.

## PRESENT:

Norman Kerr (Chairman), Nick Stroud (Vice Chairman), Iain Abbot (Acting Secretary) Harold Alexander-Bowen, Gill Anderson (St Philips Church), Norman Hughes, Cllr George Kerevan, Ray R.Lang (Portobello Parish Church), Jack MacDonald, Sheila McIvor (Portobello High School), Jim McMillan, Gordon McRae, Sgt Arthur Mackey (Portobello Police), Brenda Molony (Festival Association), Tom Smith (Brighton Residents), Andrew L. Strachan, Scott Weatherstone (EDC Community Services), Len Young.

Members of the public:

Jon Burns, Brian Cramb, Maureen Forsyth, Isabella Keddin, Dorothy McIntyre and several others.

Speaker:

Mr Max Thomson, public transport department of Lothian Regional Council's Planning department

## APOLOGIES:

David Begg, Rena Begg, Florence Jones, Lawrence Marshall

### 96.1 NEW BUS SERVICE: Portobello/Newcraighall

- 1.1 Max Thomson spoke about the need recognised by Lothian Regional Council for a new bus service to connect Portobello and Newcraighall, taking in Craig Park (Kinnaird Park). This would be operated by a small bus of the sprinter variety, half-hourly off-peak Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays and Sundays, its introduction depending on finance which would hopefully be forthcoming later this year. The route must pass through these three places but is not otherwise fixed in detail. Lothian Region draws up a specification of the route and it is then up to any bus operator to tender for it.

Several people made the point that the route should take in the Coillesdene/Milton area: many people only moved in to council housing in this area because it had good public transport into Portobello, but this has now disappeared and it is vital that it is restored. People do not want to go just to Asda or Musselburgh, but specifically to Portobello, and to do so without having to take two buses (costing time and money) or climb a steep hill.

Mr Thomson welcomed any comments on the route (to him at the Public Transport Planning department of Lothian Regional Council, tel 469 3894), and promised to show the planned route to the Community Council before putting it out to tender.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thomson for his very helpful presentation.

- 1.2 Bus routes: the only comment was that more bus shelters in outlying areas would be appreciated. Specific requests should be directed to Lothian Regional Council or Cllr Begg.

- 1.3 Other transport issues. Public transport could be better organised and easier to use if we had a Passenger Transport Executive, as in Strathclyde. This is difficult in the current political climate, but will be considered by Lothian Regional Council, which is about to start deliberating its transport strategy.

A motorist complained about getting stuck behind buses in the narrowed Niddrie Road, but Max Thomson reported that this traffic-calming measure had led to a great reduction in the previously horrendous number of child accidents.

Several members of the Council had been on the train ride around the South Suburban loop organised by Scotrail. There is now a very real prospect of this contribution to Edinburgh's transport needs being taken seriously. The Council is represented on the Capital Rail Action Group which has been campaigning vigorously for this service to be reopened, and Cllr Begg has had a motion passed by Lothian Regional Council to get independent transport consultants to evaluate the feasibility of reopening this line to passenger traffic.

## **96.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Norman Hughes had not reported that the King's Cross Hotel had closed down, merely that it had closed temporarily. It is now open again.

With that exception the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

## **96.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 95th MEETING**

- 3a The new Local Plan exercise discussed by David Leslie at our February meeting will be one of the topics at next Monday's Local Forum meeting in the Portobello Centre.

Cllr Kerevan and Norman Kerr are still to meet to discuss how the Local Forum and Community Council are to coordinate their contributions to the Local Plan exercise.

Iain Abbot expressed his concern that important Portobello expertise is diluted in the Local Forum. As its Convenor, Cllr Kerevan promised to set up a Local Forum sub-committee to go into these issues properly.

- 3b Joppa Grove subsidence: no further developments. Alternative accommodation is available for the residents who have to move out.
- 3c Council membership: Mary-Jane Elton has resigned, and Elizabeth Brownlee has been forced to retire through ill health. The meeting formally co-opted Tom Smith (Brighton Residents) and Norman Hughes.
- 3d Council Secretary: Iain Abbot and Nick Stroud will carry on as at present for the rest of the life of this Council.
- 3e Party Reporter: now being distributed. Any distribution problems will be investigated.
- 3f Tennis courts: Dennis Crichton will attend our next meeting: various matters on the operation of the courts, including the status of the Sub-committee, will be sorted out then. Sheila King wants to run her Grass Roots tennis coaching sessions in April: she can get the keys from Elsie Thom. Norman Kerr has three quotes for resurfacing the courts, the cheapest £10,000+VAT.

Cllr Kerevan will speak to Roger Jones about this.

Norman Kerr will approach the Sports Council, the National Playing Fields Association and anyone else he can think of for assistance.

3g Our constitution: reported to be ratified and on its way back to the Chairman.

3h Library doors: Cllr Kerevan has spoken to the Recreation Department about the problem with these doors for young, elderly and disabled people, and they suggested installing an intercom system. Cllr Kerevan will pursue the matter and report back to our next meeting.

3i Planning issues: The Scottish Office Reporter has been to look at the Scottish Power site but there is no news yet of a decision. Plans for the Ramsay Tech building are likely to be announced soon. There is no further word about the Dry Sports Centre, which is under consideration by the Scottish Office: the District Council have written requesting a speedy decision so they can get on and build the Centre.

3j The Business Group:

The King's Cross hotel is now open again.

Norman Hughes has received a report from LEEL about possible help with developing and marketing Rockville Hotel, and encourages other local businesses to avail themselves of it.

'Joppa Journey' has come to a halt, but the St Philips production 'Portobello Cavalcade' shows what is possible and a repeat or followup performance should be encouraged.

3k LEEL includes Portobello and Joppa in its strategy for East Lothian villages, and has applied for £1.5M to start work on refurbishing the Promenade.

3l Sub-committees:

The status and membership of the Tennis courts sub-committee should be sorted out at our next meeting.

The Sand-and-Sea sub-committee has become dormant with the resignations of Maggy Jones and Mary-Jane Elton, but needs to be revived to help our quest to achieve Blue Flag Beach status. Edinburgh District Council's Environmental Sub-committee is considering taking the UK government to the European Court for non-compliance with the EC's clean-water directives. Work on the sewage pumping station was announced to be starting on 1st March for completion in May 1994. Tom Smith will talk to Norman Kerr about possibilities for reviving our sub-committee.

Illuminations sub-committee: Norman Kerr is discussing this with Lynn Aitchison.

3m Niddrie Burn Cleanup. This clashes with the Figgy Burn Cleanup, both taking place between 1:00 and 4:00pm on Sunday 24th May. Iain Abbot asked for volunteers, who should meet in the Bridge Street car park. Scott Weatherstone asked for volunteers for the Niddrie Burn cleanup, to meet at Greendykes, Jack Kane Centre, Bingham Park or Magdalene Park (the only accessible stretches). Other agencies are being approached for help. It was agreed to give £50 for refreshments for the volunteers.

3n Public rights of way: Iain Abbot will complain formally about restriction of access along the path from Brunstane Road South to Eastfield.

Gill Anderson will find out about public rights of way from the Planning Department.

3o Nature Conservancy/Environmental report: this is with the Porty Reporter and will be circulated to interested individuals.

3p Street Markets: The Saturday market outside the 'Other Sports Shop' has permission and will open shortly.

The plan for a market on Towerbank's Ash Pitch has been submitted to the Education Department for approval. Nick Stroud will write to the headmaster at Towerbank to clear up any confusion over the Community Council's attitude to this, informing him that we haven't adopted any position over it.

#### **96.4 CORRESPONDENCE**

The problem of cyclists on the Promenade and on footpaths generally has been raised by various people: Superintendent Pryde of Portobello police is strongly against this but cannot do anything to enforce restrictions.

Complaints were also made about motorised vehicles on the Promenade and it was agreed that inessential ones should be totally banned.

Norman Kerr will follow up both these issues.

#### **96.5 CRIME AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Harold Alexander-Bowen wishes to retire as the Community Council's representative on this but kindly agreed to stay on until the end of this Council's existence. He thanked the police for their continuing help in keeping us informed, then reported the crime figures for the Portobello area for January and February, which were rising in all categories. The police are anxious that everyone should be aware of this.

#### **96.6 1992**

The 1992 planning meeting has still not taken place, but a report will shortly be produced and Norman Kerr will circulate this to Council members. Plans for the Community Festival are advancing satisfactorily. A meeting of local entertainers on 13th March will be drawing up a list of events. The Projections Gallery in the High Street is putting on exhibitions of photography and art. Much effort is being devoted to the Street Party, with another meeting due on 23rd March to complete the detailed planning. George Murray has written a report on the activities being planned by all the churches. Norman Kerr is touring local groups to tell them about the year's activities. Ideas and material for the Portobello book are advancing satisfactorily. Notepaper and compliments slips have been designed and printed, and a colourful Portobello poster will be displayed prominently around Portobello to advertise all events. Banners are to be produced for the Town Hall. Eddy Wilson is getting the licensed traders to organise an event. Special seating has been ordered for the Town Hall.

Prince Charles has declined our invitation to visit Portobello during the year. We could check with the Lord Provost's office to see which royal visitors are coming to

Edinburgh this year. Cllr Kerevan and Norman Kerr will meet to discuss a prominent visitor, one possibility being to invite Sean Connery.

#### **96.7 TREASURER'S REPORT**

This item held over as the Treasurer was absent through illness.

#### **96.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Norman Hughes asked if anyone were doing anything for the Festival in the Town Hall, the Portobello Centre or Le Vineyard. Noone was aware of any plans. The Management Committee of the Centre was reluctant to evict its regular users for three weeks over the summer.

Fringe at the Seaside was reported to be struggling and has made no definite plans for this year's event.

#### **94.10 NEXT MEETING**

The dates for the remaining five meetings of this Community Council, as usual on the second Monday of each month, are as follows:

13th April

11th May

8th June

13th July

10th August

All meetings will be at 7:30pm in the Portobello Centre, Adelphi Grove.