

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 136th meeting, held on 26th February 1996 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chairman), Tom Smith (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Gillian Anderson, Sandy Begg, Sgt Peter Boni, Celia Butterworth,
Cllr Maureen Child, Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Osbert Lancaster, Sheila McIvor,
Insp. Keith Marwick, John Maule, Anne Millan, George Murray, Beryl Neill, Lesley Reid,
Margaret Smith, Nick Stroud.

APOLOGIES:

Isobel Allan, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Gavin Strang.

Note: people who wish to submit apologies at the last minute should notify Sandy Smith on 669 6534.

136.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present, in particular our guest speakers from the Planning department and Environmental Services department of the City of Edinburgh Council.

This month's meeting was entirely taken up with the presentations from these two sets of speakers, so our normal business was held over until the March meeting.

136.1a Presentation by Planning Department

Our speakers were David Leslie and Mary Clark, of Edinburgh's Planning Department.

David Leslie explained that the preparation of the North East Edinburgh Local Plan had started in 1992 and the draft was worked on from then until 1994. This version of the Local Plan is now in Public Deposit, which means that objections to it can be made up until 22nd March. Thereafter the Council may decide to hold public enquiries.

Mary Clark pointed out that the plan took in the whole area from Granton to Joppa, but she would deal mostly with the Portobello section.

The main locations for Environmental Improvement are:

- 1) King's Road, to create a "gateway" to the Prom with expanded car parking, resurfaced pedestrian areas, a slipway for small craft, and a visitor information point.
- 2) Pottery Kilns, to improve their setting and provide interpretive signs.
- 3) Figgate Street, to redesign the area with new planting and seating arrangements.
- 4) Tower Place to Bath Street, to reorganise and upgrade the playground and shelters, improve boundary walls of private gardens, and lay out 19-24 Promenade as a public amenity space with new planting, seating and a visitor information point.
- 5) Straiton Place/Promenade, to improve the landscaping and layout of the open space.
- 6) John Street, to redesign the layout of the area and incorporate a small kiosk building for retail or cafe purposes.

The speakers then answered questions, and provided forms with which to lodge objections.

The two speakers were thanked for their presentation to our meeting.

136.1b Environmental Services

Our speakers were Stephen Walker and Stephen Williamson.

Stephen Walker started by giving us the background to what is in effect Edinburgh City Council's decision to seek a Seaside Award for Portobello, rather than Blue Flag Status. Although the quality of our bathing water has improved a lot since the opening of the Joppa pumping station, it was not yet of the required standard for Blue Flag Status.

Stephen Williamson then took up the story and explained that Blue Flags are awarded in 13 countries, but so far none in Scotland. Portobello isn't even identified as a bathing beach.

The requirements for a Seaside Award include:

- 1) No pollution from sewage or vegetable matter.
- 2) No dogs on the sand, and those on the Prom to be on a lead.
- 3) Proper access to the beach for everyone.
- 4) Provision of lifeguards, life-saving equipment and first aid.
- 5) No vehicles on the Prom.
- 6) Segregation of swimmers and water sports.
- 7) Suitable toilets, changing facilities and drinking water.

He could see no problem in most of these, except that the public toilets at the Swim Centre are not part of the refurbishment plans; alternative arrangements would be expensive.

This project can only succeed if there is political will for it.

Questions were taken from the floor, then the Chairman thanked both speakers for an informative presentation.

136.2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING, MATTERS ARISING, etc.

These were held over to our meeting on 25th March.

136.3 REPORTS

136.3a Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 26th February 1996 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1373.73
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 372.36

136.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 136.4a Publicity for Community Councils: a letter has been received from the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Councils asking for a donation of £100 to a central fund to be used for various advertisements to promote Community Councils. After discussion it was decided that we would not contribute before all other avenues of free publicity or Edinburgh Council participation have been explored. The Secretary will reply in this vein.
- 136.4b Objection to North East Edinburgh Local Plan: after a discussion which became heated at times, it was agreed that we should object to the proposal in the Local Plan for a cycleway on the Eastern Promenade. The Secretary will deal with this.

136.5 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on the following dates in Portobello Baptist Church Hall in the High Street (enter by the door to the right of the Portobello Bar), starting at 7:30pm:

Monday 25th March

Monday 29th April

Monday 27th May

Monday 24th June

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 137th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 25th March 1996 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 1996**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th February 1996**
- 5. Matters arising**
- 6. Reports**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**