

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 147th meeting, held on 31st March 1997 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Sasha Callaghan (Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander Bowen, Sandy Begg, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Diana Foster,
Shand Hutchison, Keith Jeffrey, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Insp. Keith Marwick, Alison Miller,
George Murray, Beryl Neil, Rose Nimmo, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Lilian Warwick.

APOLOGIES:

Isobel Allan, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Gavin Strang, Kathleen Ward.

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

147.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the two guest speakers, Ian Cooke and Mark Ball from the Brunstane Road Traffic Action Group.

147.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24th FEBRUARY

These were adopted as a true record (proposed by Shand Hutchison, seconded by Keith Jeffrey).

147.3 BRUNSTANE ROAD TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP

The Chairman spoke of the concern that was felt about traffic in the Brunstane area. Ian Cooke and Mark Ball then gave a presentation to the meeting, describing the difficulties experienced by the residents of Brunstane Road. Members of the Traffic Action Group had undertaken a survey which had shown that between 16,000 and 17,000 vehicles use Brunstane Road each week. There are problems with drivers speeding and with congestion, and the situation is made worse as the road is very narrow, with parking down both sides.

Over 60 children under the age of ten live on the road, and there are worries about their safety. New retail and housing developments are putting even more pressure on the road. The Action Group had considered several different options, but felt that a temporary closure of the road at the railway bridge was the best solution. This had the support of the majority of residents.

Members of the Action Group have made this request to the City Council, and asked for Community Council support for the proposal.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the Community Council would write to the Director of City Development in support of the proposal for temporary closure of Brunstane Road, but the Secretary would at the same time stress the need for a proper traffic management scheme for the whole of the Portobello area.

147.4 MATTERS ARISING

147.4a Credit Unions: David Turner had been approached by several people interested in forming a Credit Union. He agreed to hold a small meeting and report back to the Community Council.

147.4b Information Plaques: Celia reported that the Bird plaque is ready, and waiting for the blacksmith to mount it at the pumping station. There will be a small unveiling ceremony in late April or early May, and the Community Council agreed to contribute to the cost of refreshments.

The Pottery board is nearly finished, and will be sited near the kilns. Potential sponsors are to be contacted.

Work is still continuing on the Geology board, to be sited at Joppa Pans; sponsors are required.

- 147.4c Pottery Museum: it was agreed that the Community Council would support the proposal to establish a Museum of Scottish Pottery in Portobello. A report to the meeting gave details of potential funders, including the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

The proposal will go to a meeting of the City Council on 14th April, along with other proposals for reviving Portobello. Copies of the report will be sent to other interested parties, including the Chief Executive of the City Council, the Local Area Manager of Edinburgh North, the Director of City Development, the Head of Economic Development, the Head of Museums and Galleries, and the Director of the National Museums of Scotland.

- 147.4d Air quality in Portobello High Street: a letter from Environmental Services confirmed an upward trend for air pollution. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the Council requesting:

- copies of pollution trend reports
- air testing equipment to be sited in the High Street
- information on what is happening to air quality in streets similar to Portobello High Street

- 147.4e Le Vineyard: Iain Abbot has sent us details of the proposed development at Le Vineyard. After some discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Planning Department supporting the proposals but asking that the original facade be retained if at all possible.

- 147.4f Forum of Community Councils: Sandy Smith and Sasha Callaghan had attended the Forum. It was felt to have been a useful experience, particularly the sessions on Channel 6 (the community TV channel) and on the Internet. There had been some discussion about setting up a Federation of Edinburgh community councils, but no decision was taken about this. The City Council has appointed a new Liaison Officer for community councils. It was agreed that we invite him to a future meeting of Portobello Community Council.

- 147.4g General Election: George Murray reported that the Council of Churches felt it was more appropriate for the community council to arrange a public meeting with candidates for the General Election. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary would make arrangements to hold the meeting on Friday 11th April.

- 147.4e Portobello Community Festival Association (PCFA): trophies: The Secretary had spoken to Lynne Aitchison about the need to keep the trophy collection together, but further clarification of the issue was required. It was agreed to accept Lynn Aitchison's suggestion that the centenary banner be displayed in the trophy cabinet, and that the Chairman would follow up the issues of the outstanding trophies.

147.5 REPORTS

147.5a Public Transport sub-group

The group had the remit of encouraging people to use public transport. It had established that responsibility for information at bus stops lies with the City Council, who had stopped bus operators providing this. The group will be meeting representatives of LRT and SMT, and will report back to the Community Council.

Cllr Marshall reported that he had been trying to get the old Portobello Train Station reopened, and also to persuade GNER to develop it as a parkway station for Edinburgh, but he did not hold out much hope of this happening, with Currie Hill the likely choice.

147.5b Police

Inspector Marwick referred to the recent clock change from GMT to BST, pointing out that the light evenings would bring more young people out to congregate at various places in Portobello. The Police are aware of the resulting concerns held by a number of people in Portobello, and assured councillors that officers would identify areas with particular difficulties and address all apparent problems. Tolerance is requested from all sides to promote community harmony.

The East Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel Neighbourhood Watch seminar held on Sunday 9th March at the King's Manor Hotel had been a great success. Guest speakers included David Lowe, (a Project Officer of the City Council), Donald Stirling (a former Reporter to the Children's Panel), and Ray Smith (a car audio/security system dealer). These speakers covered a range of topics from car/property security and personal safety to the Children's Hearing System.

A Neighbourhood Watch Discount Scheme was announced at the seminar. The scheme was initiated by the Crime Prevention Panel, and enables Neighbourhood Watch members to obtain a 10% discount on security products bought from local DIY stores B&Q (Milton Link), Wickes (Newcraighall) and Focus DIY (Kinnaird Park).

147.5c Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts as at 24th February 1997 are:

Treasurer's Account:	£1211.37
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 671.21

It was noted that there was no representative of the Tennis Club to present their accounts at the end of the financial year.

The Treasurer reported that our insurance premium was due on 30th April, and would be the same as last year. All bills outstanding need to be submitted for payment before 7th April.

A vote of thanks was given to Kathleen for her work as Treasurer, and to Celia for her help in sorting out various aspects of our financial affairs.

147.5d Future Search

The Secretary had spoken to Gordon Russell about the anti dog fouling campaign: Gordon has had a very positive meeting with Gavin Strang, who had promised to question Ministers about enforcement. Gordon promised to keep the community council informed of any developments.

147.5e Twinning Portobello

Shand reported that a subgroup had met to discuss the possibilities of twinning. The group had identified several issues which might prove difficult, such as a lack of volunteers and resources. However he would be talking to Twinning Officers in Edinburgh, Haddington and Musselburgh, and the subgroup would meet again and report back.

147.5f Cycling

The Cycling Group had held two of a series of meetings.

Lilian reported that the congregation of St Philips were very concerned about cycling and were considering sending a letter to the City Council, or maybe organising a petition. It was agreed that the Community Council would wait until it hears the outcome of the consultation meetings before deciding what action to take.

147.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

147.6a Wheelie bins: Shand has received no reply. Item continues.

147.6b Childline Scotland: we have received a letter requesting a financial contribution; it was agreed that we would decline this, in view of our limited resources and the large number of worthwhile charities.

147.6c Post Office: we have received a letter from Post Office Counters: a new local postmaster has been appointed and will be operating from the Post Office in the High Street.

147.6d Portobello Economic Study: it was agreed that this item be held over until the April meeting.

147.6e Hope Lane pillars: we have received written confirmation that the pillars are owned by the City Council, but the restoration costs are put at £50,000 per pillar. It was agreed that the pillars should be in Portobello, especially if the Pottery Museum goes ahead.

147.6f Towerbank Sports Complex: Nick Stroud gave a brief report on the proposed new gym for Towerbank Primary School, and the School Board's hope that this could be enlarged and the neighbouring ash pitch redeveloped with lottery funding. This could only happen, though, if there were overwhelming community support for it. It was agreed that this be fully discussed at the April meeting, and that appropriate council officers be invited.

147.9 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on the following date 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 28th April

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 148th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 28th April 1997 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Towerbank Sports Complex**
- 5. Portobello Economic Study**
- 6. Reports**
- 7. AOCB**
- 8. Dates of future meetings**