



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 202nd meeting held on 30th September 2002
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present:

Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Margaret Downie, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Peter McCabe, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, David Simpson, Sandy Smith, Tom Smith, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Aileen Valentine and Lewis Waugh.

In Attendance:

Joyce Campbell, Robert Davidson, Colin Taggart.

Apologies:

Susan Deacon, Margaret Munro, George Murray, David Scott, John Smart, John Stewart, Gavin Strang, Bill Thomson.

Opening remarks by Chairperson

Tom Smith chaired the meeting, as John Smart was ill.

202.1 Minutes of Previous meeting (26 Aug)

Proposed by Sandy Smith, seconded by Margaret Smith.

202.2 Waverley Railway Project

Nick Ball of the Waverley Railway Project was the guest speaker. He opened with a brief history of the Waverley Line to the Borders. A feasibility study was carried out in July 2002 together with a public consultation. The next stage will be to get this through Parliament. There will be benefits to the Borders through employment and housing. A reopened railway line will reduce traffic in Edinburgh and to access roads. If everything goes well and Parliament approves the Transport Bill, work will begin in 2005 and end in 2008. The line will end at Tweedbank for now. Mr Ball then answered questions regarding timescale, extension to Carlisle, costs of land next to the line, how many trains would run, how long the trip to Galashiels would take, and prospects for funding.

202.3 Portobello Library and Festival of Learning

Joyce Campbell reminded the Council about the Library's weekend opening hours pilot scheme which runs until the end of October. She asked that word be spread about the weekend openings. Joyce also mentioned that the Festival of Learning had been very successful; she will be producing a report on this.

Action: Tom Smith to put up Library posters in the Community Council noticeboards.

202.4 Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting

202.4a Portobello Archives: There is nothing to report yet about the archives but this will be done during the winter months and posters can be posted in the notice board outside the town hall.

202.4b Crossrail: Lawrence said there is ongoing communication between the Council and Scotrail.

- 202.4c Prom improvements: a meeting is scheduled for 17th October, at the Community Centre. The railings have been replaced at Kings Road and at the Indoor Bowling Centre. A question was asked if the whole bit is to be done around the Fun Park? There was concern about railings outside Fun City but Robert Davidson says they are being done. Sewer repairs are being carried out on the Prom at foot of Morton Street (neither of the councillors knew much about this).
- 202.4d Portobello website: Bob Jefferson reported that new volunteers are now in place and had a meeting the previous week Thursday. Another meeting was planned for the following Thursday so prospects were more promising, but there was as yet no proper Web address for the site, and this is now needed. Bob is looking for Web space. The site should be up and running early in the New Year.
- 202.4e Portobello 250th anniversary: Nick Stroud said there should be some sort of publicity, once the History Society had confirmed that 2003 was a significant date for the town. A question was raised about cleaning the Town Hall, but Lawrence said that this would probably damage the stonework, so would not be done.

202.5 REPORTS

202.5a Police

No Police representatives were present, so Tom Smith read out a report from Inspector Bob Hope: Drug detections in the Portobello area remain high, with 52 offences detected since 1st April. This is in the main due to excellent proactive work by our Crime Patrol. A number of drug dealers are still active across the area and are the subject of an intelligence-gathering exercise to obtain sufficient information to justify search warrants.

Our solve rate for crimes of violence are lower than we would like, at 46.8%. In addition, we have been made aware of a pattern of assaults on young people in the area by groups of youths from both within and outwith the area. Positive steps are being taken to work with the young people concerned and to link in with staff at Portobello High School. Constables Lunberg and Owen have carried out plain clothes patrols in the area which have resulted in a number of youths being warned in the presence of their parents.

There have been 58 domestic housebreakings since 1st April for which we have a solve rate of 31%. Over the next few weeks two officers, one from Portobello and one from Craigmillar, will target this problem with a view of increasing the solve rate and reducing the rate of commission.

Abstraction of officers for other duties has meant that we have not been in a position to make much headway into tackling the problem of vandalism in the area; however, I would hope to provide some better news for your next meeting.

202.5b Councillors

Lawrence Marshall advised that public transport has put in for grants—for lights at Kings Road roundabout, lights at Milton Road roundabout and bus priority on Portobello High Street. Pedestrian lights have been requested for Portobello Road near The Elwyn.

Maureen Child circulated a written report.

202.5c Joppa Tennis Courts

David Simpson reported on the great efforts that had gone into raising sufficient funds for the courts' refurbishment, which was now complete. There was to be an open day on 12th October. Sunday opening from noon to 6pm was being monitored: Bob Jefferson said there was resistance from locals about this. There was concern about the Clubhouse: in its present condition it is a magnet for youths. Further funding is being sought. The courts are being well-used by the community.

202.5d Cleanliness Task Force

Robert Davidson has contacted SEPA about the quality of the water in the Figgate burn. The bins along the Prom are treated with fire retardant. There are ten replacement bins waiting for the tarmac

to be repaired. The Parks Department has changed their grass-cutting machine; Robert has spoken to Scott Thomson about winter grass cutting in the parks. Beach cleaning was due to finish at the end of September but two temps are being used to keep it going until November. Street cleaners are yet to be decided. Robert has been asking/reminding High School pupils to use bins. There is a new sweeper to come down a new route which is still to be planned. There will be litterbins for bus stops: 1,200 bins should be fitted around the city, hopefully by March. He hopes to get the Coadstone Pillars moved to Baileyfield by the end of November, but the base stone of the coat of arms is too heavy. Lawrence Marshall was asked to assist in arranging this. Sandy Smith asked if the pavement at the Landrover dealership on Portobello Road could be extended, but was told that this was not workable.

Action: Lawrence Marshall to help arrange for stone works to be moved.

202.5e Treasurer

Treasurer's account	£5,684.15
Joppa Tennis Courts	£1,717.54

202.5f Portobello Counts

Figures of measures taken over the previous few years were circulated.

202.5g Planning matters

16 Promenade: no objection was made, and the application has been granted.

202.6 Any Other Business

202.6a Colin Taggart wants to start a neighbourhood watch due to youth behaviour with drugs and violence etc. He would like to campaign for an alcohol ban on the streets, perhaps a curfew? Margaret Smith reported the same problems in Rosefield Park. Maureen Child agreed there is a problem and pointed out that some of the problems are due to our own kids. The Rosefield area is attractive because you can't be seen. The Police have targeted various areas including taking kids home to their parents and shops selling alcohol, but patrolling depends on available staff and pressure of paperwork. During the subsequent discussion it was suggested that Gavin Strang or Susan Deacon could be invited to attend a meeting.

Action: Aileen Valentine to invite Gavin Strang and Susan Deacon to a meeting.

202.6b Sandy Smith reminded everyone about the Hugh Miller shows on 11th and 12th October.

202.6c Tom Smith announced that the Library was looking for assistance in buying a copy of the Funder Finder CD, which would point groups in right direction for fund-raising. This consisted of two books and a CD which cost £140, with subsequent updating costs. Portobello Amenity Society has agreed to contribute, and the Rotary has been approached. It was agreed to authorise a cheque for £140. Proposed by Tom Smith seconded by Nick Stroud.

202.6d Nick Stroud suggested that the Community Council send a letter of support regarding the Waverley line project.

Action: Nick Stroud to email a draft support letter to Aileen Valentine.

202.6e Brenda Molony had been contacted by Portobello Ortega Peninsula in New Zealand. It was agreed that Aileen Valentine would get in touch with them.

Action: Aileen to contact Portobello, New Zealand.

202.6f Bob Jefferson has managed to borrow litter picker-uppers and an anti-graffiti box, which anyone is welcome to borrow to help clean up our community.

- 202.6g Dawson Currie reminded the meeting of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils meeting between 10 and 12 on Saturday 5th October.
- 202.6h The next LDC meeting will be on 29th October, the location to be advised.
- 202.6i There was to be a public meeting protesting against plans for a war with Iraq, with Gavin Strang, on 10th October in the Old Parish Church.

202.7 Dates of next meetings

Meetings are held on the final Monday of each month, except December and July, at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street.

The final meetings of 2002 will be on 28th October and 25th November.