



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 204th meeting held on the 25th November 2002 in the Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present:

Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, Aileen Valentine, Lewis Waugh.

In attendance:

Robert Davidson, Susan Deacon MSP, PC Graham Jeffrey.

Apologies:

Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Sandy Smith, Gavin Strang, David Turner.

Opening remarks by Chairman

John Smart opened the meeting, thanking Tom Smith for chairing the last two meetings.

Police Report

Graham Jeffrey is the local Police Community Officer and knows of local problems. Inspector Hope has now moved to South Queensferry, but Acting Inspector Cathy Crease knows our area. The Police are trying to continue to keep on top of youth problems, which have reduced to some extent, but it's hard to know whether that's due to good policing or cold weather. There has been an increase in car break-ins in the Lochend area. Tom Nimmo raised a question about a car being smashed by youths in the Rosefield area and about problems with the amusement arcade on the High Street. While the Police are aware of what's going on, they have to work within the law, and cannot intervene if no law is being broken.

Thanks were given to Graham for his report.

Discussion with Susan Deacon MSP

Ms Deacon was grateful for the chance to speak to the Community Council. She too is aware of the problems in Portobello but also advised that it is not just in this area but is country wide. There are ongoing approaches, such as the Criminal Justice Bill, Youth Courts, and attempts to get young people to channel their energy into more productive pastimes. There is no one agency responsible: not just the police, or parents, or local authorities, since what is happening reflects a change in the whole of modern society. She and the government would not shy away from this issue, though, recognising it as being of great importance.

Transport is an important issue in Portobello, and Ms Deacon is aware of the progress that has been made with Crossrail. She pointed out that Ian Gray had announced the latest round for the national public transport fund and a lot has come to East Edinburgh. Finally she talked about the Seafeld sewage works, as another example of a significant local problem being identified and addressed.

Tom Nimmo said he would like to see consequences for action as far as the youth problems were concerned. Lewis Waugh also talked about victims meeting perpetrators, but Dawson Currie pointed out that it would be difficult when public property was damaged. Ms Deacon agreed that prevention is always better than cure, and observed that the health and wellbeing of young children from the earliest stage were extremely important, and that the early stages of life have a significant impact on older years.

Ms Deacon was thanked for coming along.

204.1 Minutes of previous meeting

Item 203.4d: the Community Council did not buy Christmas trees; they were gifted to the community by a local businessman. The date of the next meeting should be in the year 2003, not 2002.

With these amendments the minutes were accepted: proposed by Tom Smith, seconded by Tom Nimmo.

204.2 Matters arising

204.2a Christmas tree in Town Hall: Lewis and Tom made enquiries about putting a Christmas tree inside the Town Hall, but the hall keeper had received a directive from the Council to say that no trees are allowed in the Town Hall because of the fire strikes.

204.2b CCTV: Maureen has been in touch with Francis McCormack of City in View, who will come and speak to the Community Council. There is a plan for major thoroughfares to be covered by CCTV. Bob Jefferson suggested it might be a good idea for a small deputation from the Community Council to go and see how it works; Bob Jefferson and Tom Nimmo volunteered.

204.2c Christmas singers: Margaret Smith said that all schools contacted would be willing to send children to sing on the steps of the Town Hall. Bob Jefferson will see about crisps and juice; if he cannot get them gifted then it is sanctioned by the Community Council to buy them.

204.3 REPORTS

204.3a Treasurer

Treasurer's Account	£5,378.21
Joppa Tennis Court	£1,717.54

John Stewart queried the figure of £160 for the Fundfinders CD: Tom Smith explained it.

204.3b Joppa Tennis Courts

Maureen Child has talked to the Tennis Courts Committee and has written to the families who complained about Sunday use. There is not much interest in playing on a Sunday at the moment anyway.

204.3c Cleansing

Bob Davidson advised that the Coadstones were now to be moved to Seafield where access is available seven days a week. Kennedys were due to finish their work on the Prom/beach on 30th November and he would get the beach cleaned when they have left. Environmental Wardens have been in the area, and Bob said he could get one to come to a meeting. Nick Stroud raised the issue of recycling, and Bob said the new Head of Waste Management was very much in favour of this, and might accept an invitation to come to a meeting of the Community Council.

204.3d Planning

John Stewart said there was nothing to report on new planning. However demolition had started on 'Grannies Attic'.

204.3e City of Edinburgh Council

Aileen Valentine read out some information from the City of Edinburgh Council.

204.3f Councillors

Maureen Child provided figures about the use of Crossrail, which were particularly high during the Festival, and presented Crossrail reliability information: at around 87.4% this is above the national average. She mentioned that Brunstane station needs a litter bin; Bob Jefferson said there should be one there soon. John Stewart raised the point about the closure of Powderhall. There was a discussion about this and the costs.

204.4 Any other Business

204.4a Harry Lauder Garden: Kathleen Hart pointed out that the gardener we have been paying for the last two years is leaving shortly. Margaret Smith suggested that the Community Council would be able to maintain the Garden if some of the members would volunteer to go on a rota to look after it, involving a few hours' work every six to eight weeks. It was suggested that the matter could be brought up at the next meeting to see if anyone would be interested.

204.4b Christmas bonus: Margaret Smith pointed out that we usually give a Christmas bonus to the hallkeeper at the Town Hall for all his help throughout the year. It was agreed that we should do this again this year.

204.4c CCTV: Graeme Jeffrey pointed out that there is a CCTV crime prevention panel; if we need support for CCTV this can help.

204.5 Dates of future meetings

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

The next meeting is on 27th January 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 24th February, 31st March, 28th April, 26th May and 30th June.