



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 206th meeting held on 24th February 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present:

Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Apologies:

Nora Mackenzie, Sandy Smith, Tom Smith, Aileen Valentine

In attendance:

Robert Davidson, Tom Clark, Jacqui Morton, M. D. Dimnati (CEC)
Pat Taylor, Phyllis Herriot (Moira Park Sheltered Housing)
Chief Inspector Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police)
Bruce Kidd (Edinburgh Racing)

Opening Remarks by Chairperson

John Smart introduced four speakers who would speak at the start of the meeting. He welcomed Bob Wardrop, new Chief Inspector at Portobello Police Station, Tom Clark, Edinburgh Council Network Services, Dominique Dimnati, Edinburgh Council Environmental Wardens, and Bruce Kidd, Edinburgh Racing.

206.1 Police Report

Bob Wardrop introduced the new Edinburgh police structure, based on a single Division for the city centre, including the East Local Police Authority Area based at Portobello. There would now be 6 beats aligned to the Council wards. Duddingston and Durham would be covered from Craigmillar and Portobello would now cover Magdalene. Most policing from Portobello would be via Community Beat Officers, with emergency response based at Craigmillar. The final number of officers is not yet confirmed. Antisocial Behavioural Orders would be used to reduce youth disturbances etc. Portobello Police Station would continue to be manned 24 hours per day.

Nick Stroud welcomed DCI Wardrop to Portobello and hoped that he would bring some much-needed continuity to policing in the area.

206.2 Moira Park – Fishwives Causeway Crossing

Tom Clark, from Edinburgh Council Network Services presented the results of a repeat survey of traffic and pedestrians crossing Portobello Road near the western end of Fishwives Causeway, prior to the Local Development Committee meeting to be held next week (4th March). The survey, taken on 27th January demonstrated more

pedestrians crossing at Fishwives Causeway (383) than at West Moira Park (113) or East Moira Park (107). When the results are analysed to include accident figures, local facilities, schools etc, the Fishwives Causeway site was ranked 13th in Edinburgh and the other two locations were ranked 52nd and 53rd. The evidence strongly supported a “Puffin” crossing to be installed at the end of Fishwives Causeway. The survey results are similar to the initial survey.

Phyllis Herriot presented a case for using a Moira Park site because of the links to the sheltered housing development, the doctors’ surgery and local bus stops. The greater use of old and infirm people in this area should be a factor. Lawrence Marshall stressed that local people were in favour of the Moira Park site and had not requested a crossing at Fishwives Causeway and enquired about the possibility of substitution. Tom Clark provided figures that showed that although as a percentage (19% compared with 11%), there were more elderly or disabled pedestrians at the Moira Park sites, absolute numbers were still much lower. The much higher number of children at Fishwives Causeway (15% compared with 5%) also supported the Fishwives Causeway site. Nick Stroud suggested that this was an important factor in favour of Fishwives Causeway.

Tom Clark indicated that the argument for substitution was not valid as a site with lower priority would jump ahead of sites 14-51, which all had higher priority and a greater safety case. The figures for East and West Moira Park could not be aggregated, as they were too far apart under the Council guidelines.

It was suggested that a puffin crossing at Fishwives Causeway could be complimented by a zebra crossing at Moira Park. Tom Clark pointed out that a zebra crossing cost around £15,000 to install, and that the road in question did not lend itself to a safe zebra crossing. A puffin crossing is similar to a pelican, but senses movement of pedestrians and reduces unnecessary stoppage time for cars when the crossing is clear.

206.3 Environmental Wardens

Mr Dimnati was introduced as the local team leader of the Environmental Warden service centred at Baileyfield. The service is based on the 1990 Environment Protection Act plus other legislation. The wardens cover abandoned cars, dog fouling, fly posting, litter and trade waste in public places. They have the power to issue on the spot fines and issue control notices to specific problem sites, such as close to takeaway food premises. They ensure that trade waste is removed by SEPA registered disposal companies. Local residents can contact them about specific problems on 669 1389.

It was hoped that the introduction of more communal bins would help to reduce the problem of refuse that misses the weekly/bi-weekly collections.

206.4 Edinburgh Racing

Bruce Kidd, a local resident and enthusiastic triathlete made a short presentation supported by videos seeking support for a new triathlon event proposed for Portobello on 20th July 2003. It was hoped that the Community Council would support the project which has the potential for growth into a major event in future years. This year

the entry would be restricted to 100 athletes and include a 750m swim in the sea, a 12km cycle round Portobello High Street, Harry Lauder Road and Eastfield, and a run along the Promenade.

The event was welcomed and the organisers were put in contact with the police to look at any traffic management/safety issues, and also Edinburgh Council Culture & Leisure and City Development departments. Outline support was endorsed (Proposed: Nick Stroud, Seconded George Murray).

For further information see www.edinburghracingcoop.co.uk

206.5 Minutes of the previous meeting

Point 205.3c was amended to state that Celia Butterworth gave a catalogue of the Coadstones to Bob Davidson. The minutes were accepted, proposed by Celia Butterworth, seconded by Dawson Currie

206.6 Matters arising

A written report on a visit to “City In View”(CCTV) was lodged by Bob Jefferson and Tom Smith (205.2a)

A letter had been sent to SEPA requesting information about the diesel oil seepage into the Figgate Burn (205.3c).

There were no other matters arising, other than those to be taken under reports item.

206.7 Reports

206.7a Treasurer

No report

206.7b Tennis Courts

No report

206.7c Cleansing etc

Bob Davidson reported that the Coadstones had not yet been moved. He reported that the Council had indicated that it was the responsibility of the residents with property backing on to the Figgate Burn who had responsibility to remove silt from the stream banks near Adelphi Grove.

The machine for removing chewing gum from the street/pavement would be in operation in March between the Police Station and Bath Street.

The Council’s recycling officer will come to the next meeting.

206.7d Planning

John Stewart reported that a set of Urban Design Principles for the Baileyfield site had been prepared and would guide future planning applications. A copy would be e-mailed to members (**Action: Lawrence Marshall**). This site was seen as an important

gateway to Portobello and it was hoped that this would provide a major opportunity to improve the area and convert what has always been an industrial area into one of mixed residential and industrial use.

Lawrence Marshall reported that the old Bath Place funfair site was zoned as open space, and discussions were in progress for future use.

David Turner provided copies of a petition seeking support for new planning legislation proposed to give individuals similar powers to developers. The petition would be available at the next meeting.

206.7e Councillors

Maureen Child tabled a written report that will be circulated by e-mail (**Action: Secretary**).

Lawrence Marshall reported that Community bins would be installed next month. The larger ones, with foot pedals, would be easier to use for older people.

The site at the bottom of Bath Street (Granny's Attic) had now reached foundation stage. John Stewart suggested that now was the time to ensure that the original planning permission terms were upheld. This originally included the reuse of the stone from the pre-existing building. If this was not in satisfactory condition, then replacement, good quality stone building materials should be used. The eastern boundary of the building should also be checked. (**Action: John Stewart, PAS**)

The Youth Club at the Community Centre is now much more successful with numbers up from the usual handful to about 35. The club was approaching optimum numbers. There is a proposal to develop a youth internet café, and prepare a questionnaire for local children. A full time Youth Worker is soon to be appointed to the High School.

It was agreed to invite Brian Greatorex (Community Youth Club) to the next meeting.

206.7f Signs and Plaques

Celia Butterworth tabled a written report

206.8 Next meeting

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 31st March 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 28th April, 26th May and 30th June.