



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the 207<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church**

**Present:** Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Peter McCabe, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Tom Smith, John Stewart, David Turner, Aileen Valentine, Lewis Waugh.

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Nick Stroud, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith.

**In attendance:** Robert Davidson, Angus Murdoch, Jacqui Morton, Kenny Pringle (CEC): Paul & Val Cairney: Inspector Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police)

### **Opening Remarks by Chairperson:**

John Smart introduced Angus Murdoch (Waste Strategy & Recycling) and Kenny Pringle (Community Education Service) as guest speakers.

### **207.1 Police Report (Inspector Bob Wardrop)**

The new single city division structure would begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003. Portobello was beginning with 25 officers compared with the full strength compliment of 34. This was because of officers seconded to major investigations and ill health. It was uncertain when full strength would be achieved. Shifts would operate at 1.5 teams instead of the normal 2 except in the evenings where a normal pattern would be maintained.

### **207.2 Waste Strategy & Recycling**

There is a major campaign to meet EU requirements for recycling and reduction in landfill,. At present about 10-11% of household waste is recycled, up from less than 5% compared with last year. The target is 25% by 2006 and 50% by 2010. The real figures for recycling are probably much higher because much trade waste is also recycled. There are new paper banks in the High Street (opposite Labour Party offices, opposite Marlborough Street and near the newsagents in Joppa). Around 15,000 tonnes per annum is recycled in Edinburgh. A trial for garden waste is in operation but excludes Portobello. Plastics are difficult to recycle because of the low density, but the Council is testing collections using the refuse trucks with crushing facilities. People were encouraged to wash glass, avoid envelopes (because of the glue and plastic windows), and Yellow Pages as the colour dyes the final paper products. A set of leaflets with more information has been lodged at Portobello Library.

### **207.3 Community Education Service**

Kenny Pringle from the regional service stood in for the local Community Education Youth Worker, Brian Greatorex, who was unable to make the meeting. It is recognised that the facilities for youths in the Portobello area are far from adequate, but several initiatives are now being funded with some excellent initial results. The Thursday night youth club at the Community Centre was continuing to grow and is now very vibrant with >50 members (mainly from the Portobello area). There are weekend outings and there is a need to increase the club from just one night a week, although this would be difficult as the Community Centre is heavily used. The club provides mainly for 11-14 year olds, and there was a need that something different was required for older children. There is a plan to find premises for a

supervised youth Internet café, possibly opposite the Police Station in premises owned by the Council. The equivalent of 2.5 posts are now available in East Edinburgh with supporting funding for 3 years. This included a Youth Development Officer to cover the Portobello High School catchment. A new outreach worker has been appointed and would start shortly. Mr Pringle agreed to send a brief report to the Community Council every two months. He can be contacted at Castlebrae High School (6617463); Brian Greatorex may be contacted at the Community Centre on Thursday evenings.

#### **207.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The rank of Bob Wardrop was corrected to Inspector. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted: Proposed Tom Smith; Seconded Lewis Waugh.

#### **207.5 Matters Arising**

Matters arising were taken under the following agenda items.

#### **207.6 Reports**

##### **207.6a Treasurer**

Account balances:           Community Council £8028.64   Tennis Club £1817.54

The balance is high because it includes £1200 for the Sir Harry Lauder garden maintenance, £1800 for the festival committee and £3000 for the Paddling Pool site work. This is to cover payment for design work already completed, and arrangements were made to repay Stephen Hawkings for his work. Members were requested to submit stationery expenses soon so that the end-of-financial year figures could be completed and audited before the May AGM. Celia Butterworth and Margaret Smith were appointed as auditors. It was agreed to support publicity for the Bellstars ceilidh on the Promenade on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, to cover printing of 200 posters and flyers. (Proposed: George Murray; Seconded: Lewis Waugh). Tom Smith proposed that a donation be made to the Monday Centre and older peoples group at the Baptist Church. This was accepted.

##### **207.6b Tennis Courts**

No report – AGM held at St Philip’s Church at same time as this meeting.

##### **207.6c Cleansing etc**

Litterbins were now installed at all Portobello bus stops. The King’s Road roundabout would be closed for 4 hours for maintenance on 27<sup>th</sup> April: local residents would be notified. There was a slight hiccup in colours on the finger posts. One tractor driver had resigned and would be replaced soon. The dumped Herald & Posts in the Figgate Burn would be cleared and the H&P informed. A litterbin opposite the Coach House, stuffed with a large branch, would be cleared. Bob Davidson should be contacted if any of the new large bins are moved or overturned, or if anyone has evidence that they are being used for trade waste. The legality of the red bins outside McColls would be investigated.

It had been decided not to apply for yellow flag status until Portobello was further improved, particularly regards dog mess. It was also necessary to appoint a beach manager prior to application and funding had not yet been found. When funding is available a post with wider responsibilities for Portobello is proposed.

The Portobello Working Group was having a real beneficial affect and would be holding a walk round meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

##### **207.6d Planning – taken under 206.6e**

### **207.6e Councillors**

Maureen Child – also see attached: A design for the Paddling Pool area was presented. This will be passed to the Signs & Plaques committee for preparation of a temporary board. Dawson Currie had attended the last meeting about a Community Council exhibition at Ocean Terminal. It was noted that Portobello has been omitted from the flyer about the Festival of the Sea, which was Leith centric.

Lawrence Marshall: The site at 113 High Street was under consideration for the Youth café, although there may be planning constraints. A new Neighbourhood Watch scheme is planned for Rosefield Avenue, and it was suggested that this group should be consulted before a decision on the youth café was made. Communal bins were located at the housing scheme on the site of the old power station in preference to wheelie bins. One resident was unhappy about this. Both councillors expressed disappointment that the requested site for a crossing at Moira Park was turned down, but Cllor. Child agreed that the decision in favour of a crossing at Fishwives Causeway was correct in light of the survey figures. The architects for the new building at the foot of Bath Street had agreed to use stone for the ground floor. It is hoped that the first floor will also be stone clad. It is still not clear whether the eastern boundary will be at the edge of the site or in line with the wall of the old building.

### **207.6f Signs and Plaques: No report**

### **207.7 A.O. B.**

Lewis Waugh asked for ideas to be included in the redevelopment of Portobello High School. Please send ideas to 12 Rosefield Place in the next two weeks.

John Stewart asked whether the developers at the foot of Bath Street would be responsible (and for how long) for the damage to the Promenade caused by their vehicles. Bob Jefferson (on behalf of Nick Stroud) asked whether the builders could be asked to provide something to support the community, such as a web cam thermometer.

There would be a hustings at the City Chambers on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> April. John Smart would approach the Portobello Council of Churches to see whether they would organise a local hustings.

The Secretary has a copy of the report into Youth views on Portobello facilities. A Local Development Committee Coordinator, Mary Dunbar, has been appointed by Edinburgh Council, and she has been invited to address the next meeting.

Other items from correspondence received

- There is a Development Day meeting planned for 29<sup>th</sup> April to discuss “Developing a Framework for Patients and Public Involvement in the NHS in Lothian”. For details of venue (not yet decided) contact John Thomas (acting Assistant Director of Healthcare Planning) at 0131 5369099. The Community Council is invited and the Secretary has background documents.
- The organisers of the Edinburgh Marathon (Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June) are requesting volunteers to help marshal the event as it passes through the Portobello area. All marshals receive a packed lunch and a souvenir T-shirt. Please let the Secretary know if you wish to help.
- Portobello Baptist Church has written to the Community Council to advise that the Hall will be redeveloped sometime after March 2004
- The next meeting of the Portobello Community Centre Management Committee will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm

### **207.8 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 28th March 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> August.