



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 208th meeting held on 28th April 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, David Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith. Tom Smith, Nick Stroud

Apologies: Nora Mackenzie John Stewart, Bill Thomson, Aileen Valentine, Lewis Waugh. Bob Jefferson passed on regrets from Lewis Waugh that he would be unable to attend meetings for the next two years whilst he is taking a degree.

In attendance: Sgt. Cathy Crease (Portobello Police), Robert Davidson, Mary Dunbar, Gordon Mackay

Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

John Smart introduced Mary Dunbar (Local Development Co-ordinator) and Gordon Mackay (GoldenDays) as guest speakers.

208.1 Police Report (Sgt. Cathy Crease)

The new single city division structure began on 1st April 2003. It would be sometime before any benefits of the new system were clear, but the move to more community policing and police on the beat was welcomed. A summary of crime figures for April 2002 to March 2003 was provided (based on the "new" beat boundary which covers a slightly larger area than in previous years):

Crime: Theft Housebreaking & Attempts	105 (includes Business and/or Huts etc)
Theft of M/vehicles & attempts	110
Theft from Motor vehicles	147
Vandalism	298
Traffic: Accidents involving damage only	187
Accidents involving injury	62

208.2 East Edinburgh Local Development Committee coordinator (Mary Dunbar)

Mary Dunbar has recently been appointed as one of the local Development Committee Coordinators, on secondment from the Housing Department. Her role is primarily to develop agendas for the LDC meetings, help with business planning and increase engagement with the public. The LDCs are still developing following the formation of the Edinburgh Partnership and the Community Planning legislation. They could help community councils in two areas: a) to help Community Councils work together to improve input into City planning issues that affect more than one Community Council area (such as the proposed new school in Craigmillar, which would have an affect on Portobello High School) and b) provide an opportunity to present local issues to a wider audience. It is hoped that future LDC meetings (dates to be set after the election) would be a forum for presenting local issues to senior council officials. The LDCs have influence over the distribution of significant resources, and direct control of a grant fund which could be an opportunity for funding new initiatives at the Community level.

Mary Dunbar is in a position to support Community Council initiatives and it was suggested that Portobello Community Council should participate in the LDCs to present evidence from Portobello to support successful policies and initiatives that have been tried in the area. Nick Stroud welcomed Mary to East Edinburgh and hoped that she would soon appreciate the vibrant community and facilities in the area. Mary can be contacted on 5294415 or at mary.dunbar@edinburgh.gov.uk

208.3 GoldenDays

Gordon Mackay reported on planning for the 14th June GoldenDays event. Last year, the event was a pilot project, and this year a slightly bigger event is planned, leading to a full festival in 2004. It will be focussed on the Promenade and will take place the day before the Edinburgh Marathon. Volunteers were requested to help with seaside activities, such as sandcastle competitions. Other events include dance, classic cars, light music, stalls & exhibitions. The stalls would compliment, and not be in direct competition with local shops. Stalls with old records and books, linked to the overall 30-60s theme are envisaged.

The event has Council support, the Police Events Planning Team has been consulted, and costs of meeting the "safety" considerations are estimated at £3000-£5000. Support has come from the Scottish Community Foundation and Millennium Funds. The Lothian Tourist Board is advertising the event. There will be 10,000 fliers and Radio Forth and the Evening News have promised to highlight the event.

208.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Bill Thomson was added to the list of attendees. *Item 207.3:* Some streets to the west of Portobello Road in Craigentenny are included in the garden waste scheme, but not the main road itself. *Item 207.6:* Communal bins were proposed for the old power station housing scheme, but had yet to be introduced. However, the final decision was not yet clear because of a dispute with one resident. Councillor Marshall (not both Councillors) expressed disappointment that the requested site for a crossing was turned down.

The minutes were accepted Proposed: Kathleen Hart Seconded: Brenda Molony

208.5 Matters Arising

Celia Butterworth reported that there had been no vandalism on any of the boards. The Eastfield board would be replaced because of the poor quality inks. Maureen Child and Celia were liaising over a board for the John Street paddling pool site. Maureen Child stated that funding for redevelopment of the site was in place, but the total cost was likely to be £300,000. There still needed to be a consultation phase with local residents. Planning permission may be required for the proposed kiosk, but as no change of use was required, and the new scheme was designed in conjunction with Anna Grant of the Planning Department, permissions were unlikely to be a problem.

208.6 Reports

208.6a Treasurer

Account balances: Community Council £5362.43 Tennis Club £2599.96

The annual audit will be held on Wednesday 30th April. Annual payments to Scottish Rights of Way (£14) and the Scottish Association of Community Councils (£15) would be made.

208.6b Tennis Courts

No report – First event of the year, with coaching is on Saturday May 3rd at 2pm

208.6c Cleansing etc

The remaining white litterbins will be replaced by black and gold ones. A new one will be placed at the top of Bellfield Street. A few more litterbins will be placed at bus stops on Moira Terrace & Milton Road. The chewing gum removal machine has been used successfully, but not between the Police Station and Bath Street as there were too many pedestrians. Robert Davidson will try and get assistance from local businesses to fund overtime for Sunday working. McColls will be approached about the red bins on the High Street. Maintenance has started at the King's Road roundabout and shrubs have been cut back along Sir Harry Lauder Road. There will be a change of legislation in November to allow Environmental Wardens to take action against dog fouling on the beach. The coadstones will now be moved to a locked container at Inverleith until a site in Portobello is identified. Thanks were passed on to all those who had helped last weekend with the clean up of the Figgate Park. Help to clean up the lower part of the Burn was arranged for 10.15am on Sunday 11th May. No more oil is escaping from the GNER spill, but further seeps could occur after rain. A request was made for revarnishing of the seats outside the Town Hall, where one bench was also reported as

missing. Issues could be raised at the next Working Group meeting at 2.30pm on 21st May at the Community Centre.

208.6d Planning – no report

208.6e Councillors:

Maureen Child – requested nominations for the Edinburgh Council award for Good Citizenship. The award usually goes to people with 20/30 years of community service. Nominations close on 30/5/03. The excavations outside the Ormelie Tavern follow the appearance of rusty brown water seeping through the pavement. For the last 10 years the adjacent houses have been affected by ingress of this water into their basements. It may be associated with ground water rebound following the end of mining and abandonment of pumping at the mine. It was suggested that the water may be an alternative energy heat source and a study was looking at the potential for use of mine waters in Midlothian.

Lawrence Marshall: A temporary park & ride car park at the football pitches at Craightinny/Seafield will be available during the Festival of the Sea (23-26th May). Plans for the Portobello Open Doors (POD) event (9-17th August) are taking shape based at the Old Pier. The Fringe is advertising POD. Contact Sheila McWhirter, Events Organiser, for more information (sheilamc@supanet.com). The talking seagull advert for Portobello on Radio Forth received mixed reviews!

208.6f Signs and Plaques

New plaques received for Rock Cottage and Russell Flint. Next meeting is on Tuesday 10th June, 8.15pm, Rockville Hotel. See also matters arising (208.5)

208.7 A.O. B.

Celia Butterworth proposed a PAS suggestion that the large coadstone be located in the centre of the King's Road roundabout, and that the two smaller stones could be placed in the Sir Harry Lauder garden. Laurence Marshall hoped that alterations at King's Road would keep the roundabout as a planted feature rather than conversion to an expanse of tarmac

Other items from correspondence received

- Two events to be held at Portobello Library as part of the Festival of the Sea are talks by Judy Patterson (Sea Stories from Around the World, Sat 24th May, 10.30-11.15 & 11.30-12.15) and Peter Acheson, The Eyemouth Shipping Disaster, Mon 26th May, 7pm).
- There is a joint meeting of Community Councils at the City Chambers on 17th June, 7pm to discuss the Edinburgh Partnership, the city plan and developments in local community planning
- The Edinburgh City vision Council documents are available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/citiesreview or contact Adam Kassyk at 0131 469 3553. Also contact Adam to comment on new Community Planning initiatives (Secretary has copy of report)
- Please contact the Secretary if you wish to participate in a short survey assessing older people's services in the City.
- A document from the Commission for Racial Equality suggesting ways to meet the guidance on race relations for Community Councils
- A letter from Portobello Older Peoples Project thanking the PCC for the £100 donation.

208.8 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 the A G. M. on 26th May 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 30th June and 25th August.