



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 211<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

**Present:** 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, David Turner, Stewart Weaver.

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Alix Gaffney, Lawrence Marshall, George Murray, Sandy Smith, Nick Stroud, Bill Thomson, Aileen Valentine.

**In attendance:** Sgt. Richie Adams (Portobello Police), Robert Davidson (CEC), Bruce Kidd (Edinburgh Racing Club, Portobello Triathlon), Stuart Young (ERC).

### 211.1 Chairman's Introduction

Tom Smith welcomed Bruce Kidd and Stuart Young from the Portobello Triathlon

### 211.2 Portobello Triathlon

Bruce Kidd presented a short video of the Triathlon held at Portobello in July. The event had gone extremely well with an excellent entry. The major difficulty was raising the money for coning various road sections and junctions. Edinburgh Council had provided a grant towards the cost, but this would not be available next year. Bruce presented proposals for next year. One option was to increase the size of the entry and make it a Scottish (or British) championship event. The one major difficulty would be the need for temporary road closures for the cycling leg if numbers were increased. There had been one collision between a car and a steward during this year's event.

The proposed date for next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> July. Supporting "festival" events were suggested.

The Community Council praised the event and offered to help promote next year's event. Sgt. Richie Adams indicated that the Police would have no objections to temporary closures and would be happy to assist next year. A contribution to policing costs is required for profit-making events, but not for those run on a non-profit basis.

### 211.3 Police Report (Sgt. Richie Adams)

The current rate of solving crime in Portobello was at about 35%. There is a new Auto Crime Squad to campaign against local vehicle crime. The summer promenade and beach campaign had been a major success with only one lost child incident (successfully resolved in less than 15 minutes). The red child wristbands had been very popular with more than 1000 distributed. There are enough materials for next year. The Police have been promoting local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

### 211.3a Minutes of the 210<sup>th</sup> meeting

*210.5e Hanging Baskets.* Margaret Smith agreed to approach Andrew Craig at the Town Hall.

The minutes were then accepted. Proposed: John Stewart Seconded: John Smart

### 211.3a Matters arising from the last meeting

*Mobile Telephone Masts:* The proposal to put a mast in the tower of Portobello Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street was declined after a large meeting at the Church. An alternative site at the Freightliner terminal was possible. M. Child has a letter from the Council analyst, which provides background information on the effects associated with mobile telephone installations. It was noted that it was no longer allowed to erect masts on schools, but there may be contractual difficulties in removing existing masts. This would be a matter for individual schools to address.

*Portobello Open Door (POD):* The week of events had been an excellent success and the organisers were praised for their hard work and enthusiasm. Sheila McWhirter would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the event and proposals for next year.

*Hanging Baskets:* John Stewart would pass on to PAS notifications of problems with watering the Town Hall baskets. Repotting is probably required to get the watering system working properly.

*Portobello Citizens Advice Bureau:* The future of the CAB was still in doubt due to lack of funds and the proposed redevelopment of the Baptist Church

*Alexander Brand Portrait:* The Council would make a decision on the painting at a meeting on Friday. M. Child indicated that the signs are promising.

*One Ticket Scheme:* There is a Council campaign to promote this scheme.

## **211.4 Reports**

### **211.4a Treasurer**

Account balances: Community Council £5883.04          Tennis Club £2074.46

The grant from Edinburgh Council has been received. The Tennis Club needed to pay for damage.

### **211.4b Tennis Courts**

The club tournaments are due to held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August (children) and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. (adults)

### **211.4c Cleansing etc**

R. Davidson reported that the new beach cleaner has been working very effectively for the last few months and members of the Community Council were delighted with the state of the beach during the excellent summer season. The machine was not effective at picking up cigarette ends, and a special machine (costing around £6,000) may be purchased to clean the narrow strip against the breakwater, where cigarette rubbish is most common. There would be difficulties in staffing this machine, as it would be slow. However a pre-event clean-up is possible. The Portobello Working Group met today, and agreed to tarmac the area around the toilets on the Promenade. A campaign to replace bollards has begun in Joppa, and would be completed by December. Additional bins are proposed for the top of Bellfield Street and either side of the Police Station. The major problem at present is associated with litter close to fast-food outlets. The mess in the evenings is a particular problem as the Council street team leaves the Promenade at 16.30. A twilight shift is a proposal for next year, but will require additional funding.

Please contact Bob Davidson direct to notify any fly-tipping incidents. Tom Smith proposed a Beach / Figgate Burn clean-up day during the weekend 20/21 September, in conjunction with Diane Smith ("People in Places Officer"). Bob Jefferson agreed to co-ordinate arrangements.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Council praising the beach cleaning during the Summer.

### **211.4d Planning**

John Stewart (PAS) presented details of two significant Portobello planning proposals:

*Portobello Baptist Church:* An outline plan was submitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> August to convert the basement into one flat and the upper church building into two floors, each containing 3 one-bedroomed, and one 2-bedroomed flat. A later application is expected to convert the ground floor (including the CAB office) and the Church Hall into a new church building. The Church is required to do some alterations because of legislation about disabled access to public buildings. An option to build a lift to the present church was dismissed as too costly.

Key issues with this development are the conversion of the B-listed church building, which was the first Portobello Town Hall, and therefore has historical importance. However conversion into a local museum or other public building would also require a solution to the disabled access requirements.

*Scottish Power Site, King's Road Area:* A proposal to build a new superstore fronting on to Portobello High Street is expected shortly. The initial plans include parking for 445 cars. It is not known which supermarket chain is proposing the plan. The proposal will be discussed at the P.A.S. meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. There was no support for the plan, and it was agreed that John Stewart would write to the Planning Authorities on behalf of the Community Council as soon as the formal plan was lodged. There is a local petition (in most local shops) against the proposal. Grounds to object include various sections of the East Edinburgh Plan, including E26, which requires quality development on the High Street and approaches,

and S1, which is against new shopping facilities which affect the viability of the existing shopping facilities. Any developer may require a Retail Impact Study. The development also goes against the mixed housing outlined in the Council plans for the area. It was suggested that historically the area has included industrial activity, and a retail development was not in keeping. Traffic congestion at King's Road roundabout would also be increased.

Councillor Child, as a member of the Planning Committee took no part in the discussion.

#### **211.4e Councillors:**

Maureen Child – see attached written report

Joppa Quarry Park: This was the first Edinburgh play park to be redeveloped in 1984, and now requires refurbishment. There have been problems, including violence against local residents during the summer, and it was agreed to seal the entrance from Brunstane Gardens. This has met with a heated and mixed response from local residents. A proposal to have a locked gate, with keys provided to residents has been suggested.

#### **211.4f Signs and Plaques: no report**

#### **211.5 A.O. B.**

**211.5a Lothian Buses:** The Secretary had written to LRT after complaints about the 32 bus service. The 32 was stopped running to Kinnaird Park because of excessive traffic problems in the area and severe delays which made it impossible to run a reliable service. The Council were looking at bus priority schemes. The Secretary had also contacted Craigmillar Community Council, and has received an invitation to attend the Craigmillar CC meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October to discuss the bus services with an LRT representative. LRT would also be at the next Edinburgh East Local Development Committee Meeting,

**211.5b Gulls on Your Property:** The Secretary has an advisory guide to problems with gulls

**211.5c Scottish Water:** There is a meeting of the Seafield Community Liaison Group in the Board Room at Leith Academy, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.30pm. Please let the Secretary know if you wish to attend.

**211.5d Edinburgh East Local Development Committee:** The next meeting is at Portobello High School, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, at 7pm.

**211.5e Training for Community Councils:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7-9pm, City Chambers (How to run meetings, public speaking, minutes etc).

**211.5f Youth Crime Strategy Briefing:** The Secretary has a report.

**211.5g Edinburgh A-Z of Council Services:** The Secretary has an audio CD.

**211.5h Edinburgh Environment Partnership:** Notice of next grant round. Apply by 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Suggested that the Secretary inform Dave Bonner who is looking at the paddling pool site.

**211.5i Edinburgh Outlook:** The Secretary has been asked for articles about the Community Council activities. Members were requested to seek digital photographs of this year's events by the end of the week.

**211.5j Craigmillar Capacity Building Project:** Details were passed to Bob Jefferson. There may be ideas to include in the PCC web site.

**211.5k Portobello Community Centre:** Next management meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm

**211.5j: Biodiversity Seminar Report:** The Secretary has a report of the February seminar on the Brunstane-Newcraighall biodiversity project.

**211.5k Community Council Joint Meeting:** The Secretary has a report on the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at the City Chambers to discuss Community Planning, attended by Dawson Currie and Robert Gatliff.

Details: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncils>

#### **211.6 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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> November.