



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 213th meeting held on 27th October 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart. David Turner.

Apologies: Bob Jefferson, Brenda Molony, Sandy Smith, Nick Stroud, Aileen Valentine.

In attendance: Bob Wardrop & Richard Spence (Portobello Police), Robert Davidson (CEC), Paul Cairney, Sue Hudson-Crawford, Ashok Ohri, Richard Hope & Jan Killeen.

213.1 Chairman's Introduction

John Smart welcomed members and visitors to the meeting

213.2 Police Report (Bob Wardrop & Richard Spence)

Bob Wardrop apologised that the Police had not been represented at the last meeting. Since August there has been a campaign in the area to stop auto crime. A new campaign has started to reduce underage drinking. This is aimed at pubs, off-sales, licensed grocers and schools. When youngsters are caught drinking, a letter is sent to parents. Another seasonal campaign to stop the sale of fireworks to under 18s has started. This includes shop and school visits. The public are urged to report any fireworks incidents to the local police. Maureen Child reported that a private members firework bill was planned for next year.

213.3 Big Things On The Beach (Ashok Ohri, Richard Hope & Jan Killeen)

A short presentation by a new group of local residents was introduced by Jan Killeen. The group was trying to raise funds for a trust to contribute to the revitalisation of the beach through temporary and/or permanent sculptures on the beach and promenade. Similar schemes have met with great success in Barcelona, Belgium and Hastings. A pilot project was proposed for 2004 with a sculptor in residence. The proposal was based on large stunning sculptures by a well-known artist, and would extend from Midsummer to the Festival. At this stage the group were collecting local opinion, and the Community Council expressed support for the project. The next phase included a fund-raising campaign. Ideas were welcomed (via Jan Killeen 669 2888); a website would be available soon.

213.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Kathleen Hart Seconded: Dawson Currie

213.5 Matters Arising

213.5a Bath Street Development: It was noted that there has been little progress on the new building. There are no planning restrictions requiring immediate completion.

213.5b Community Safety subgroup: The Secretary had spoken to Jacqui Morton to clarify the proposal for a Community Safety subgroup. It was agreed that this new group would become a subgroup of the Community Council. The Secretary suggested that this would make it easier for the Community Council to have inputs to consultation documents such as the Scottish Executive "putting Our Communities First" consultation.

213.5c Portobello High School: The Secretary reported that Nick Stroud had spoken to the Headmaster and two pupils would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Community Council.

213.5d Craigmillar Community Council: The next meeting was now scheduled for the 18th November, when a representative of Lothian Buses would be present. John Smart would attend on behalf of Portobello Community Council. Other members may also attend.

213.6 Reports

213.6a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £5,718.97, Tennis Club £2,074.46.

213.6b Tennis Courts: No report.

213.6c Cleansing etc (Robert Davidson): A new tractor with hydraulic arms is now available to move windblown sand away from the sea wall. Karen Hay (Scotland In Bloom Officer) will be invited to attend the January Community Council meeting. The LDC meeting on the 28th October would focus on litter, dog fouling and graffiti. Those who could not attend could e-mail questions to Mary Dunbar. It was proposed to resurface the area near the Promenade lavatories west of Bath Street with a play surface. It was indicated that this was too soft for skateboards, and the Council was urged to rethink the material to be used. Richard Barclay at the Council would be asked to sort out the opening mechanism for the new Community Council notice boards.

213.6d Planning: John Stewart reported that there was as yet no decision on the change of use of the Baptist Church. A public meeting will be held on Monday 3rd November 2004, at 7.30, in the Town Hall to support the campaign against the proposed supermarket at the western end of the High Street. Gavin Strang and Susan Deacon have both lodged letters with the Planning Department about the proposal.

213.6e Councillors:

Lawrence Marshall: The next phase of the supermarket planning procedure is likely to be a hearing in January when members of the public can make a case against the proposal. A query was raised whether the public could see the impact assessment reports, or whether just the summary of the assessment was available.

Maureen Child: see attached written report.

It was suggested by Bob Jefferson (letter to Lawrence Marshall) that the Community Council should explore whether the chimes of the clock at the police station could be restarted. It was believed that they had been switched off during the war (1939-45). The Secretary would write to James Ritchie, who has a contract with the Council to look after civic clocks.

213.6f Signs and Plaques: Celia Butterworth reported that the John Street perspex has been replaced after vandalism. The Spiers-Bruce plaque would be erected soon. Replacement prints would be put in the Marlborough Street and Eastfield boards. The level of vandalism for the last few years has generally been low.

213.7 A.O. B.

213.7a Tower Bank: Paul Cairney and Sue Hudson-Crawford attended the meeting to inform the Community Council of a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme around Tower Bank. Their first campaign is planned to reduce car crime and improve street lighting by proposing that orange streetlights be replaced with white lights. M. Child reported that there are no funds left in the Council funds for CCTV.

213.7b Amnesty: David Turner reported that there will be a display in Portobello Library in November to mark the 25th anniversary of the local Amnesty Group.

213.7c Local Transport Strategy: The Secretary has received a draft report on local transport. Responses to a questionnaire are required by the 24th November. Council members who would like to respond are requested to ask the Secretary for a copy of the document and questionnaire.

213.8 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 24th November 2003.

Subsequent meetings are on 26th January and 23rd February 2004.