



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the 214th meeting held on 24th November 2003 in Portobello Baptist Church**

**Present:** Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Sandy Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart. Nick Stroud, David Turner.

**Apologies:** Dawson Currie, Robert Davidson, Bob Jefferson, Aileen Valentine, Stewart Weaver.

**In attendance:** Dave Lundberg (Portobello Police), Mary Dunbar (CEC), Joyce Campbell and Mike Spells (Portobello Library), John Butterworth and Rosemary Smith.

### **214.1 Chairman's Introduction**

John Smart welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

### **214.2 Police Report (Paul Lundberg)**

There was less trouble this 5th November with fewer calls. An accident at the Edinburgh City event at Meadowbank was reported. The police support a total ban on the sale of fireworks, but support for this view was mixed. A night-time campaign in the area was undertaken between 17th and 19th November by a plain-clothes task force, who uncovered illegal use and supply of diamorphine and cannabis. There were 47 personal searches, 20 vehicle searches and a house search recovered more than £1,000 of stolen goods. Three cases of bank card and credit card fraud were discovered. The Portobello area has a lower level of drug problems than much of Edinburgh. Nick Stroud thanked the police for their efforts.

### **214.3 Portobello Library Refurbishment (Joyce Campbell and Mike Spells)**

A plan of the alterations planned for Portobello was presented. These include a new lift, a separate area at the front for children, a new area for computers on the ground floor, and a new meeting room for 6–10 people upstairs. The cobbles etc outside the library will go. The Library is expected to shut for a few weeks during the Summer at the height of building works. The Library rooms are heavily booked and the number of books issued puts Portobello in the top ten of Edinburgh Libraries. The Library acts as a community centre, issuing bus passes etc. It provides exhibition space for local history and art, and is recognised as one of Edinburgh's flagship libraries.

### **214.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Celia Butterworth; Seconded: Margaret Munro.

### **214.5 Matters Arising**

**214.5a Craigmillar Community Council:** John Smart had missed the meeting with a representative of Lothian Busses. The Secretary would write and ask for a copy of the minutes.

**214.5b Big Things On The Beach:** Robert Gatliff presented an update from Jan Killeen and read out a letter. The Secretary would write a letter of support to help their fund-raising. It was planned to work in conjunction with the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop based in Leith.

**214.5c.** The Secretary had written to James Ritchie about the chimes on the Portobello Police Station clock.

### **214.6 Reports**

**214.6a Treasurer:** Account balances: Community Council £6,038.99    Tennis Club £2,074.46.

It was agreed to pay a bonus to Andrew at the Town Hall.

**214.6b Tennis Courts:** No report.

**214.6c Cleansing etc:** Robert Davidson was away but had sent a brief report to the Secretary.

### **213.6d Planning (John Stewart):**

6 John Street – a change of use application had been declined with the decision citing several reasons. A John Street Action Group had been formed and would continue to monitor developments.

Superstore Application – more than 300 people had attended the public meeting and there was huge support for the campaign against the planning application. Speeches in support of the campaign included those of local MSPs. The next stage of the planning process required completion of several impact studies. John Stewart would arrange for three speakers to represent PAS, the Community Council and local traders at the next planning hearing, which was likely to be in January 2004 or later.

Maureen Child reported that Mr Henderson (Sports, Leisure and Culture) was supporting a large central skateboarding facility. Although there may be smaller satellite facilities, there were no plans for one in Portobello. There was support for a skateboard facility on the Promenade near the public lavatories near the bowling centre. There was some concern as to whether this would be too near local houses. Robert Gatliff suggested that this might be an area for funding from the Edinburgh Environment Partnership Grants Scheme (see A.O.B.).

### **214.6e Councillors:**

Maureen Child – see attached written report. No-parking restrictions are planned for the junction at the end of Milton Road at Eastfield, and at the junction of Morton Street, Dalkeith Street and Joppa Road.

Lawrence Marshall – The allotments at Telferton have been bought by a new developer at a price believed to be around £750,000. Two sites in the Portobello area are being considered for a major recycling plant – one at the community waste site at Seafield and another at the Freightliner terminal. Lawrence Marshall is in favour of a site at Millerhill, which could serve Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian as it is close to the boundary of all three areas. An application to change the Fun Park into housing has been lodged. This was the oldest fun park site in Scotland and the second oldest (after Blackpool) in the United Kingdom. The buildings are on the site of the old Portobello Harbour and the site is one of archaeological importance.

John Stewart asked when the report summarising the character appraisal for the Portobello Conservation area would be published.

**214.6f Signs and Plaques:** Celia Butterworth presented photographs of the two recently erected plaques. No further plaques were planned at the moment.

### **214.7 A.O. B.**

**214.7a High School.** Nick Stroud would invite the Portobello High School Head Master to the next meeting.

**214.7b King's Road Roundabout.** Alix Gaffney requested that the bushes etc on the roundabout be pruned to improve visibility. There was a discussion whether this would make the roundabout safer or not.

**214.7c Coade Stones:** Celia Butterworth asked the Community Council to consider sites for the stones.

**214.7d. Edinburgh Community Council Annual Joint Meeting.** This will be held at the City Chambers on 9th December at 7pm. It will be preceded by a meeting to discuss the funding for Community Public Space and Community Building Improvement Projects at 5pm–7pm (with buffet). Those wishing to attend please let Eileen Hewitt (Community Council Liaison) know (Eileen.Hewitt@edinburgh.gov.uk).

### **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 26th January 2004.

The subsequent meeting is on and 23rd February 2004.