



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 216th meeting held on 23rd February 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present, Maureen Child, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner.

Apologies: Celia Butterworth, Dawson Currie, Sandy Smith.

In attendance: Robert Davidson (CEC), Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police), Karen Hay (Edinburgh in Bloom), Naomi Coleman (Steer Davies Gleave, consultant transport specialists), Roger Hargreaves (CEC) and Ian Wilson.

216.1 Chairman's Introduction

John Smart welcomed members and guest speakers.

216.2 Police Report (Bob Wardrop)

Bob Wardrop highlighted a drop in reported crimes since December, although auto-crime was on the increase and giving concern. He encouraged everyone to report ALL incidents, which would lead to more reliable figures and police resources to match the activity.

A free set of sessions of 5-a-side football will be held for 12-16 year olds at the Portobello pitches on Fridays, 5th March to 7th May, 8pm–10pm. Please advertise and promote this scheme for the youth of Portobello.

216.3 Edinburgh in Bloom (Karen Hay)

Karen Hay (469 5196) is co-ordinating the competition this year and is available to provide advice and information. There will be competitions for private entrants (front garden, hanging basket display, wildlife garden, allotment), Commercial and Community (place of worship, community garden, school grounds, street, urban village high-rise block). Contact Karen for entry forms. There are plans to encourage sponsorship of roundabouts.

216.4 Transport Department Consultation (Roger Hargreaves and Naomi Coleman)

A presentation was given on proposed improvements to the transport facilities in the Portobello area as part of improved access to growth areas (Newcraighall, South Gyle, Ocean Terminal). The proposals cover bus priority: improving junctions, bus lanes, cycling and pedestrians; bus infrastructure: bus stops etc; Improved cycle ways. Proposals were presented for Milton Road, including the replacement of the roundabouts at Duddingston Park and Milton Link/Sir Harry Lauder Road. It was also proposed to replace the roundabout at King's Road with traffic lights. Comments at the meeting included a preference for traffic lights replacing roundabouts, traffic lights on roundabouts, protection of greenery (e.g. roundabouts), difficulties of policing greenways, the siting of Brunstane Station to the bridge under Milton Road to provide an integrated transport exchange, and support for better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Plans can be seen at the Library. Comments to Steer Davies Gleave, 68-70 George St. EH2 2LR or ptfconsultation@sdgworld.net.

216.5 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Margaret Munro; Seconded: Margaret Smith.

216.6 Matters Arising

216.6a Police Station Clock: Bob Jefferson presented the details of a quote from James Ritchie to overhaul the clock and install an electronic control mechanism for the chimes that would allow for variable periods of chiming. Total cost of restoration is estimated at £3,980 + VAT (£1,250 mechanism, £980 strike train,

£1,750 electronic control + VAT). Bob Jefferson *and* Robert Gatliff would approach the police for financial support and apply for funds from the East Local Development Committee.

216.7 Reports

216.7a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £5,549.23 Tennis Club £2,679.46.

The money in the Treasurer's account includes:

General funds	£1,752.74
Sir Harry Lauder account	£1,036.23
Christmas Lights	£950.00
Portobello Festival Society	£1,810.26

216.7b Tennis Courts: (Robert Gatliff). The AGM will be held at St Phillip's Church Hall on Monday 15th March. All welcome. Refreshments will be served. There will be a campaign for new members and a discussion on a youth strategy. Details of membership from Neil Fergus (669 4566). Details of AGM on Portobello website.

216.7c Cleansing etc: (Robert Davidson). Plants on King's Road roundabout will be trimmed soon. Work has started on the hard surfacing adjacent to the Fun Park. Keys for the new notice boards are now with Robert Davidson and Robert Gatliff. Environmental Wardens have issued 3 or 4 fines for dog fouling incidents near the paddling pool.

216.7d Planning (John Stewart):

6 John Street – the application was advertised in the Evening News.

Superstore Application – Developers have bought the JET garage and an application for an additional 30 parking spaces for the superstore has been made. The planning hearing is likely to be held on the third or fourth Wednesday in March.

New Nursery – The proposal to develop the Thomson Garden Centre as a children's nursery with 60 places has been approved.

195 Portobello High Street – application for Pizza Hut.

216.7e Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report.

Lawrence Marshall – A new planning application has been lodged for a high fence along the sea side of the bus depot. This is not in keeping with the Promenade. The Council is considering a Compulsory Purchase Order for the Telferton allotments with support from an increasing waiting list for allotments. Portobello High School and Towerbank have not been included in the new group of schools for redevelopment under the public-private partnership scheme. One option for raising funds for redevelopment of Towerbank is to sell the annex. The city recycling centre is now proposed for a site in Salamander Street, Leith, rather than the Freightliner terminal.

216.7f Signs and Plaques: It was agreed that this sub-committee would take on the coade stones.

216.8 A.O.B.

216.8a. Portobello Community Council Finances: An extended debate on worthy causes for support from the Community Council funds resulted in approval to support Evergreen (£200), Portobello Youth Club (£200), Portobello Older Peoples Project (£100) and a donation of £200 towards a new print of the seaside board and paving in front of the geology board. This last will be matched by funds from P.A.S.

216.8b Big Things On the Beach. Scottish Arts Council has confirmed a grant of £10,000. Applications are in for matching funds (Portobello events Fund; Local Development fund).

The organisers are urgently seeking suitable premises as a base for the artist to work from and to run workshops. The closer to the beach the better. Ideas to secretary or bigthings@f2s.com

216.8c. Preparing for the New City Community Plan. The Council wants to update its plan which is now five years old. The new plan should address issues and problems that are important to the public. Community Council minutes will be analysed as one source, but we may like to discuss issues for inclusion in the Community Plan at one of our meetings. Copies of the existing plan are available from Eileen Hewitt on 469 3838 or Eileen.Hewitt@edinburgh.gov.uk. Key issues relevant to Portobello may be submitted for consideration by the end of March (to Adam.Kassyk@edinburgh.gov.uk or 469 3553).

Briefing Note from Edinburgh Council: The new plan must involve meaningful community engagement; show evidence of joint strategic planning between agencies; must demonstrate improvements to services through joint working. It must address issues important to the public as well as agencies and be owned by both the wider community and the agencies. It must be rooted in what is practical within agency budgets, business plans and commitments.

Timetable

Community Engagement Process	Feb-May 2004
Summarise actions to address issues	Feb-May 2004
Identify issues for future agency planning	May 2004
Document of issues, commitments and gaps	June 2004
Consultation	July-September 2004
Final Plan Published	November 2004

216.8d. Community Councils and the new Scottish Democracy

A conference for community councillors in Edinburgh, City Chambers, Saturday 27th March 2004, 10am-12. The Scottish Parliament aims to encourage wide public participation in its work. The Scottish Executive is encouraging local authorities to revitalise local democracy. Health authorities are seeking new ways of involving the public and patients in developing local health policies.

How can community councils play a fuller role on these developments?

Do local authorities encourage, support and listen to community councils?

Should community councils have a voice on health matters?

Make your views known at the meeting.

216.9 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 29th March 2004.

Subsequent meetings are on 26th April 2004 and 31st May 2004 (AGM).