



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 221st meeting held on 30th August 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Monro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart. David Turner.

Apologies: Celia Butterworth, Alix Gaffney, Sandy Smith, Nick Stroud, Inspector Bob Wardrop.

In attendance: Kenneth Welsh (Portobello Police), Beth Young (Portobello Neighbourhood Watch Association), Dorothy Fellenger and Andrew Ward (Coillesdene House Residents Association), Ian Wilson.

221.1 Chairman's Introduction: The Chairman welcomed members and announced new membership from the Portobello Merchants and Hoteliers Association and the Portobello Neighbourhood Watch Association.

221.2 Police Report (Constable Kenneth Welsh): The Police 5-a-side tournaments had been a great success and plans are in hand for further tournaments. The Community Council thanked the Police and proposed to pass on a cup for future tournaments (**Action: Brenda Molony**).

The Child Safety Initiative, including the wristband and missing children scheme, was also a success. The Police have received several letters of thanks from parents. More wristbands were bought through the Coast Guard and Community Council.

Lothian & Borders Police are part way through a consultation on police priorities. The Chairman will attend a Focus Group meeting at Fettes Police HQ on 14th September.

221.3 Minutes of the 220th Meeting: The minutes were accepted: Proposed Kathleen Hart; Seconded Margaret Smith.

221.4 Matters Arising

221.4a Christmas Decorations. Margaret Smith has received photographs of the decorations available from the Council. Six new decorations are available. These should be in addition to ones promised for the Town Hall. **Action: Margaret Smith** to follow up.

221.4b Harry Lauder Garden. Signs for garden are in progress. **Action: Dawson Currie.**

221.4c Task Force. It was noted that no representative had attended a Community Council meeting since the reorganisation. **Action: Maureen Child** to speak with Task Force managers and Bob Davidson.

221.5 Reports

221.5a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £7,079.00 Tennis Club £3,845.65.

An £1,100 cheque has been received from Gordon McKay as the proceeds from the Golden Days Festival. **Action: Secretary** to write and thank Gordon.

The Treasurer expressed concern on the lack of details from the Tennis Club.

Actions 1. Maureen Child to discuss with Tennis Club committee; **2. Secretary & Treasurer** to write a letter to seek clarification.

The Chairman suggested that two new notice boards be purchased to replace the old boards at the Town Hall and Police Station. A decision was deferred to consider whether new boards were required, whether there are cheaper options, or whether the new Community Boards (Town Hall, Joppa, Figgate) were adequate.

221.5b Tennis Courts: see Treasurer's report. The Tennis Club committee was scheduled for the same time as this meeting.

221.5c Task Force: No report. **Action: Maureen Child** to discuss with Team Leaders how the Community Council can receive reports and comment on work programme etc.

221.5d Planning (John Stewart): Superstore: John Stewart would respond to the enquiry on behalf of the Community Council indicating that the PCC will contribute to the enquiry. A pre-enquiry meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Monday 4th October at 19.15. It is hoped that a large turnout of local residents will indicate the depth of feeling in the local community. John Stewart requested volunteers to help present the case to the public enquiry. He was actively collecting more information on the retail and transport impacts.

PAS will object to two planning applications: 228 Milton Road East, where there have already been several extensions, and 29 Pittville Street where there is a request to build a new mews house. PAS will also request that any planning consent given to the redevelopment of the Fun City Site gives full consideration to the archaeological importance of the underlying remains of the Portobello Harbour. This could be a very important archaeological site.

6 John Street – The applicant for HMO status has appealed against the refusal

PAS has submitted a response to the SE consultation on Rights of Appeal to Planning Decisions, indicating support for the right of third parties to appeal planning decisions.

221.5e Councillors:

Maureen Child (see attached written report) and Lawrence Marshall: The proposed closures of local Post Offices have resulted in very few protests (Secretary has maps and details of proposed closures). The recent POD events had been very successful and the organisers were praised for their efforts.

221.5f Signs and Plaques (John Stewart): The Bird Board has had a new print installed. A sub-group including members of the Community Council and the City Council Leisure Department had viewed a range of potential sites for the coade stone pillars. The favoured locations are the proposed community garden at the paddling pool site and the entrance to Brighton Park. Sites adjacent to the Town Hall were rejected as too small. Rosefield Park was also considered, but ranked less suitable than the favoured sites.

221.6 A. O. B.

221.6a Community Council Scheme. The Secretary thanked members for their contributions to the review of the Community Council Scheme. The summary responses would be forwarded at the end of the week, giving members time to comment further.

221.6b Preparing Edinburgh's Community Plan: Meetings to discuss this will be held on 9th September (10.30-12.00, McDonald Road Library) and 14th September (19.30-21.00, City Chambers).

221.6c Meadowbank Stadium: The mooted closure of this sporting facility was noted. Although not in the Community Council area, it was agreed that the provision of sports facilities for Portobello residents in East Edinburgh was important. **Action: Chairman** to write to the City Council expressing concern.

221.6d Portobello Festival of Learning: Saturday 11th September 10.30-16.00 in the Town Hall – free entry. Please support this event.

221.6e. Lothian NHS: The Secretary has consultation documents on Improving Care, Investing in Change 2004. Responses by 5th November 2004.

221.6f: Maintaining Houses – Preserving homes. The Secretary has a Scottish Executive consultation on poorly maintained private dwellings, the rented sector and single surveys in buying and selling houses. Responses by 29th October 2004.

220.6g Portobello Library: Funds have been released for modernisation. Work is expected to begin in March. Library staff will be at Ocean Terminal, which is hosting Get Up and Go (over 50s activities) on 23-24th September. The old exhibition cases with cups etc will be replaced with new display cases. The Library will dispose of the old case.

220.6h Scottish Water: The Secretary has copies of the SW Consultation Code and the Sustainability Report (2002/03).

220.6i Planning for 2004/05: The Secretary presented (on behalf of Nick Stroud) ideas for preparing a Portobello Community Council Plan for the next 12 months. Suggestions for such a plan include:

- Highlights on website
- Promote the Coastal Path through Portobello
- Turn the bandstand into a real bandstand
- Get the BBC to use the Town Hall for a broadcast programme
- Invite speakers to meetings to support proposed initiatives
- Invite MSP and MP during the year.

It was suggested that members come with more ideas to the next meeting for a “brainstorming session.”

220.7 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 27th September 2004.