



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 222nd meeting held on 27th September 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Nora Mackenzie, Brian McCrow, Brenda Molony, Margaret Monro, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud.

Apologies: George Murray, Sheila Scott, John Smart, Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police).

In attendance: Tim Maiden (CAG Consultants), Betty Young.

222.1 Chairman's Introduction: (Tom Smith)

222.2 Guest Speaker: Tim Maiden (CAG Consultants) presented the results of an analysis of Portobello for Forward Scotland, which looked at the diverse needs of the Portobello/Milton wards in terms of how the area has changed and what makes the community sustainable. A written summary is available from the Secretary.

222.3 Minutes of the 221st Meeting

221.5e Planning: 6 John Street: The applicant has appealed against the decision to decline HMO and change of use to Guest House (see below).

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Margaret Monro: Seconded: John Stewart.

222.4 Matters Arising

222.4a Christmas Decorations. Margaret Smith reported that the Council has eight decorations/lights. There is a proposal to get rid of the big star and reintroduce tree lights outside the Town Hall.

222.4b Harry Lauder Garden: no progress.

222.5 Reports

222.5a Police Report: Written report received from Bob Wardrop: Two issues a) recent increase in youth problems countered by an "extraTeam" - leading to confiscation of alcohol, youths taken home, more than 70 letters to parents and four arrests; b) A "Youth Buz" will be launched on 14th October aimed to engage with youths. It will host a set of computers, two youth workers etc and will visit recent "hot-spots", including Craigentiny, Northfield, Restalrig and Joppa.

222.5b Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £6,979.00 Tennis Club £3,845.65

222.5c Tennis Courts: (Maureen Child): Discussions have been held with the Tennis Club about governance and reporting. Club volunteers recently renovated the pavilion and Edinburgh Council has been asked to re-instate guttering.

222.5d Task Force: (John Stewart): Robert Davidson would arrange for at least one of the two Team Leaders to attend the next meeting.

222.5e Planning: (John Stewart): There will be a meeting at 7.15pm on Monday 4th October at the Town Hall regarding the superstore application. There was a request for examples of similar planning enquiries. Community Councillors have volunteered to participate at the enquiry. There are three key areas: Transport, urban design and local retail issues. The Edinburgh Council QC would be available to support local community views, including CATS and the Portobello Traders. There was debate about whether the Portobello Traders would need a separate QC or whether the local community would provide a better "local" case, with the city QC providing enough professional support.

The planning application at 228 Milton Road East has been declined. Permission to build a Mews House in Pittville Street Lane has been granted.

Historic Scotland has supported the request to assess the archaeological importance of the old harbour area before/as part of redevelopment.

6 John Street: Two appeals are pending: The first is on 28th October in the Sheriff Court against Edinburgh City Council's decision to decline of HMO status. The second is a planning appeal to the Scottish Executive. The next stage of this process is an on-site meeting in six to eight weeks. The John Street Action Group will enter written submissions.

Paddling Pool Site: Two applications for grants towards redevelopment have been turned down. ACTION: Review what could be achieved with the £100,000 of Council earmarked funding.

MacDonalds Joiners (Brighton Place): It was noted that the site adjacent to the old Portobello station was on the market with "suggested" planning for three-storey blocks of flats. This presents a threat to established trees on the site and a possible barrier to the development of a new station.

222.5f Councillors:

Maureen Child – see attached written report. Highlighted Council plans for redevelopment of play areas at Joppa Quarry Park.

222.5g Signs and Plaques: no report

222.5h Portobello Merchants & Hoteliers Association (Margaret Smith on behalf of Sheila Scott): The group is growing (26 traders) and over £5,500 has been raised towards a fund to fight the superstore application. A calendar (£4.99) for 2005 is in preparation with photography by Jack McDonald.

222.6 Planning for 2004/05. A wide-ranging discussion was held on the way forward for the Community Council. The ideas presented at the last meeting were supported. It was suggested that sub-groups take the lead on the different projects, with regular reports on progress, requests for ideas, publicity on Portobello Online.

It was proposed to focus both on both short-term goals and have a long-term vision. As part of the long-term vision process it was suggested that a workshop be held to look at some of the larger issues, such as how to develop the potential of the Promenade, High Street, 5-a-side football site, Fun City-Amusement area etc. There were suggestions to develop Summer seaside activities.

Actions: Members to consider for next meeting. It was agreed to look at a Community Council one-page insert for the next Portobello Reporter to highlight issues.

222.7 A. O. B.

222.7a Triennial Elections: Edinburgh Council has proposed to defer the May 2005 elections until May 2006 so that the review of the Community Council scheme can be completed before the election. No objections were raised.

222.7b Review of Community Council scheme: There will be further opportunity to comment on the revised scheme at the CC Annual Joint Meeting in December. This will be followed by further consultation on boundaries and public consultation. Scheme expected to be ready after June 2005.

222.7c Local Council Electoral Arrangements for Proportional Representation: Consultation in New Year. Details on <http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/>

222.7d Meadowbank and Jack Kane Centres: There is an invitation for the Community Council to be represented on a short working group on the proposals for the sports centres. The first meeting is on Wednesday 13th October at Meadowbank (Lounge 3) from 7pm to 9pm.

222.8 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 25th October 2004.