



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 224th meeting held on 29th November 2004 in Portobello Baptist Church

**Present:** Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Betty Young.

**Apologies:** Susan Deacon, Kathleen Hart, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Sheila Scott.

**In attendance:** Roger Hargreaves (CEC), Naomi Coleman (Steed Davies Gleave), John Butterworth, Karen Downing (Portobello Traders), Rosemary Smith, Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police).

### 224.1 Chairman's Introduction: (John Smart)

The Chairman welcomed the large attendance and guest speakers.

### 224.2 Police Report (Bob Wardrop)

The results of a review of policing were expected tomorrow, and may recommend a return to 24-hour policing in Portobello. The Police were keen to work with the Council in Problem Solving Partnerships. Joppa Park is seen as a candidate for this scheme. The police were asked about the control of egg throwing and the problems of fly posting. Posters on public property should be reported to Bob Davidson. Those on private property are the responsibility of the property owners.

PCC has received an invitation to visit the Forces Communication Centre at Bilston Industrial Estate. Contact Secretary if interested.

### 224.3 King's Road Roundabout Plans (Roger Hargreaves and Naomi Coleman)

Plans to replace the roundabout with traffic lights were presented, as part of the Council's "Access to Growth Areas" scheme, which focuses on improving public transport. The new bus lanes and lights activated by approaching buses will be introduced. Traffic lights are recognised as safer for cyclists, although it was hoped that some greenery could be provided around the lights to replace the lost planting in the centre of the roundabout. Plans are available at Portobello Library. The scheme should not encourage more cars through Portobello. There was support for the retention of the pedestrian lights adjacent to the bus stop in the High Street.

### 224.4 Minutes of the 223rd Meeting

Corrections: George Murray attended meeting: delete from apologies. 223.3a: Christmas decorations budget £50. 223.4f: Tom Smith to discuss with Maureen Child. 223.6a: Portobello Monday Centre donation £200.

The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Margaret Smith: Seconded: Brian McCrow.

### 224.5 Matters Arising

**224.5a Harry Lauder Garden:** The Secretary had received a request from Ms Louise Reid for the Community Council to consider modifications to the garden to deter skateboarders from using the edging to the plant area, as this was causing damage to plants. If skateboarders were causing damage, this could be reported to the police station opposite the garden. It was proposed that the concerns of local youths should be listened to and acted on, and the damage reflected lack of provision of local skateboard facilities. PCC has urged CEC Council to provide local skateboard facilities but thus far, to no avail.

### 224.6 Reports

**224.6a Treasurer:** Account balances: Community Council £6,8874.75 Tennis Club £3,845.65. A letter of thanks has been received from the Portobello Monday Centre following the donation of £200. A cheque for £768 has been received from the LDC Community Grants Fund towards the police station clock renovation.

**224.6b Tennis Courts:** No report.

**224.6c Task Force:** No report.

**224.6d Planning:** (John Stewart):

**Superstore application:** Next meeting to discuss strategy on Thursday 2nd December at St Mark's Church.

**6 John Street:** The appeal following the rejection of the application for change of use to a guesthouse has been rejected.

**224.6e Councillors:** Maureen Child – see attached written report.

**Powerleague site:** The recent advert for sale of this site was discussed. The proposal is to sell with a scheme for two-thirds housing development and one-third new community facilities, including (possibly) a new library (hence abandonment of current library renovation) and community centre. The Powerleague operators have a 99-year lease; hence the Council is selling the land, with a proportion of the money returning to Powerleague. Powerleague want another site in Edinburgh, possibly adjacent to Portobello Golf Course. The CEC view is that this is “unlocking value”. Community Councillors expressed a view that this was selling off key assets and losing valuable recreational areas. M Child indicated that the Council might not sell if a good scheme cannot be agreed.

**224.6f Signs and Plaques** (Celia Butterworth): The first board has been replaced because of old age rather than vandalism. The incorporation of the coade stone pillars in the Community Garden (paddling pool site) had been discussed at the last meeting. This was the last meeting attended by Richard Barclay (CEC), who is moving on. His efforts towards improving Portobello were greatly appreciated by the Community Council. It was hoped that a modest scheme for the site would begin in December or early January with CEC budget of £116,000.

**224.6g Portobello Merchants & Hoteliers Association** (Karen Downing): The new calendar (£5) is now available and selling well. Please go out and buy one now.

**224.6h Portobello Neighbourhood Watch** (Brian McCrow): The November meeting at the Library was well attended and discussed the traffic calming scheme, which will be introduced in April, and received police and environment updates. The next meeting will be on 1st March.

**224.7 Planning for 2005 onwards.** Brian McCrow presented the results of the sub-group (Robert Gatliff, Brian McCrow, John Stewart and Nick Stroud). A spreadsheet of the ideas was given to attendees and comments etc were requested prior to, or at the next meeting.

**224.8 A. O. B.**

**224.8a: Town Hall:** It was agreed to give the Town Hall caretaker a bonus from the Community Council.

**224. 8b: Edinburgh Community Councils:** Notice of Joint Community Council meeting on Wednesday 10th December at City Chambers (Community Planning)

The following items relate to correspondence not discussed at the meeting:

**224.8c: Milton Road bus priority scheme:** Secretary has copy of plans.

**224.8d Scottish Water:** Secretary has notification of network re-zoning, and comments on odour emissions from Seafield.

**224.8e Community Backgreens Initiative:** Secretary has details of scoping study.

**224.9 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 31st January 2005