



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 225th meeting held on 31st January 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Brian McCrow, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, David Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner

Apologies: Robert Davidson, Brenda Molony, Sandy Smith, Betty Young.

In attendance: Susan Deacon MSP, Jan Killeen (Big Things On the Beach), Bob Wardrop (Portobello Police)

225.1 Chairman's Introduction: (John Smart): Welcomed members and visitors.

225.2 Police Report (Bob Wardrop): Portobello Police Station has reverted to 24 hour manning with increased numbers of officers and two 2-officer teams in the area most of the time, with the proviso that they are part of a city-wide response force.

225.3 Susan Deacon MSP: Question and answer session covering a range of issues, including Scottish planning policy reviews, the application for a superstore, the development at the foot of Bath Street and climate change. Susan Deacon invited local groups to visit the Parliament by arrangement.

225.4 Minutes of the 224th Meeting: The minutes were accepted. Proposed: Tom Smith; Seconded: John Stewart

225.5 Matters Arising: There was a request to keep the names of members of the public out of the minutes. L. Marshall suggested that debate should be open and reported rather than anonymous. Future reporting will consider the issues on a case-by-case basis.

225.6 Reports

225.6a Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £6,713.52 Tennis Club £3,415.65.

Action: Secretary to write to ELDC about delay to work on the Police Station and resultant delay to work on the clock.

Action: It was agreed that the Treasurer would look into alternative banks following continual poor service from current bankers.

225.6b Tennis Courts: No report.

225.6c Task Force: CEC have now received the new beach cleaning machine.

224.6d Planning: (John Stewart):

Superstore application: The public enquiry will begin on 1st March at the British Legion in Portobello. It is expected to last nine days. A PCATS public meeting will be held on Monday 7th February at the Town Hall. The Burns ceilidh on Saturday was a sell out and raised £2,000. John Stewart will present the case on behalf of the Community Council, based on the traffic effects, urban design principles and retail arguments. The Community Council thanked John for his excellent efforts and hard work on behalf of the local community. The next PCATS event will be a pop club/quiz at Portobello Masonic Lodge on Friday 18th February.

Foot of Bath Street: The developers have requested a change in the planning approval to allow the ground floor to be used for residential use. PAS/Community Council has objected on the unsuitability of windows opening directly on to the Promenade, and also because the original planning application was based on commercial premises to rejuvenate this part of the Promenade.

82 Portobello High Street (High Miller's house). Plans for redevelopment have been submitted. PAS believes this will severely alter the character of this historic building and has objected.

65-77 Portobello High Street. PAS has welcomed plans to build private gardens at the front of the 1960s flats and introduce chevron parking in front.

280 Portobello High Street: The alterations to the front of this building were undertaken without planning permission. The owners appealed against the ruling that they were unsuitable. This appeal has now failed on the grounds that the alterations are not in keeping with the rest of the listed Victorian terrace of shops.

225.6e Councillors: Maureen Child – see attached written report – and Lawrence Marshall.

Powerleague site: Nothing yet decided. Two potential alternative sites recognised in East Edinburgh (one in Portobello). No decision would be made until alternative site accepted (with planning permission). Powerleague has been surprised by the depth of feeling in the community to keep the Powerleague facility on the existing site and may reconsider. L. Marshall thought that the facility was not in keeping with a High Street, although others believe that this is a traditional leisure facility site, which should be maintained.

225.6f Signs and Plaques (Celia Butterworth): A meeting was held on 11th January. The next plaque will be for Ned Barney, Channel swimmer. £450 is required. The Paddling Pool site is being considered as a site for the coade stones. It is now proposed to use the existing Council funding to make good the site and apply for more funding to develop the site to house the coade stones, other art works or sporting facilities. A meeting with interested parties would be held on 15th February to discuss new designs. It was requested that a representative of Big Things On the Beach be invited.

225.6g Portobello Merchants & Hoteliers Association: no report.

225.6h Portobello Neighbourhood Watch (Brian McCrow): The next meeting will be on 1st March.

225.7 Planning for 2005 onwards. Brian McCrow presented the results of the sub-group (Robert Gatliff, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, John Stewart and Nick Stroud). An updated list of actions with volunteers was presented. A request for volunteers to support these activities and take forward further ideas was made. An update of progress will be made at the next meeting. Discussions focused on the idea for a Town Centre Manager to support development and help join up the planning and delivery of local services. Support was given from Susan Deacon and the Local Councillors, and it was recognised that such a move was in line with new Edinburgh Council community planning initiatives.

225.8 A. O. B.

1. **Lord Provost Portrait:** This is now back in the Library after cleaning.
2. **CAG Case study report: Appraising the sustainability of four Scottish communities: Portobello:** Secretary has a copy of the final CAG report prepared for Forward Scotland.
3. **Edinburgh Association of Community Councils:** Meeting dates for 2005: Sat 5th March, Sat 4th June (AGM), Sat 15th October (10am-12noon).
4. **Transport Edinburgh:** Secretary has a package of material about changes to be introduced in the city centre. Also a note from Blackhall Community Council, which is opposed to congestion charging.
5. **Recycling News:** Secretary has latest newsletter, Garden waste, Redhall Garden, Composting, Recycling competition, Eco-school flag awards, Summer Festivals, new facilities for recycling electrical and electronic equipment.
6. **Community Access Projects:** Grant applications requested by end February – improved access, footpaths, encouraging healthier life styles, cycle paths etc – targeted at projects with participation over new infrastructure – smaller community based projects. (Possible option for measured mile etc on the Promenade).
7. **Edinburgh Council Litter Plan:** Secretary has information pack.
8. **Community Safety Grant Funds:** £1,000 – £10,000 projects aimed at tackling youth offending and anti-social behaviour. Secretary has details.
9. **Houses in Multiple Occupation:** Secretary has booklet on the scheme.
10. **National Health:** Secretary has a report entitled Working for a Healthier Edinburgh.

11. **Scottish Water:** Secretary has details of new capital maintenance and infrastructure maintenance programmes to cut leaks, wastage etc. Latest newsletter.
12. **Scottish Marine Newsletter (Crown Estate):** Details of Marine Stewardship fund.
13. **Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan:** Secretary has package describing the scheme.
14. **Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme:** Secretary has a copy of the scheme and plans. Bob Jefferson commented that the scheme would begin upstream from Portobello, but work would be staged to avoid increased flooding risk downstream before the entire scheme is completed.
15. **South East Edinburgh Local Plan:** Proposed Modifications. (Area adjacent to Portobello.)
16. **Telephone mast application:** T-mobile at Units 1–3 West Telferton, Telferton Business Park.
17. **Big Things On the Beach (Jan Killeen):** Activities this year would focus on shorter periods of artists in residence and a proposal to have reserved sculptures etc from the Scottish Collections provided for display along the Promenade, on public or private land. This has the potential for a major exhibition, which would be a national and international attraction. The Community Council welcomed the plans. The trustees for Big Things on the Beach are looking for additional trustees who would like to support the plans. Please contact enquiries@bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk.
18. **Community Council Boundaries Mapping Meeting:** 7.30pm, 3rd March, City Chambers. Dawson Currie will attend. Our written submission indicated no changes requested.

225.9 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 28th February 2005.