



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 229th meeting held on 30th May 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

**Present:** Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Alix Gaffney, Robert Gatliff, Kathleen Hart, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, Lawrence Marshall, Brenda Molony, Margaret Munro, George Murray, Tom Nimmo, Avril Scott, David Scott, Sheila Scott, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, John Stewart, Nick Stroud, David Turner, Betty Young.

**Apologies:** Celia Butterworth, Nora Mackenzie, John Smart, Sandy Smith.

**In attendance:** Hazel Bett, Diana Cairns (PCATS), Maggie Chapman, Gillian Dunn, Ian Forrest, Stephen Hawkins (PCATS), Caroline Hosking (PHS), P. Lake (PHS), Peter McColl, Anna Ward.

**229.1 Chairman's Introduction:** newly-elected chairman Robert Gatliff took the chair and welcomed the large number of people at the meeting. He thanked Kathleen Hart, John Smart and Tom Smith for their work as office bearers for the previous Community Council.

**229.2 Campaign against the Superstore:** Stephen Hawkins summarised the outcome of the enquiry into the superstore. The 30-page report rejected the application on the grounds of traffic congestion (an extra 1,100 cars an hour in the area) and its separation from Portobello town centre. However the Reporter said that a superstore might be acceptable if it were integrated into the town centre and had no impact on traffic. The reaction of the developer, Duddingston House, is awaited.

The meeting congratulated PCATS on this outcome.

**229.3 Guest speaker:** Stuart Smith, of the City's Economic Development department, outlined the work planned in the High Street. While the exact plans would depend on the outcome of the public consultation presently under way, the PAS tree specialist had already determined that six of the seven flowering cherry trees by the Town Hall would have to be removed. There were plans to move and strengthen the bus stands and to repave the pedestrian area between the Police Station and Bath Street. The overall number of car parking spaces should remain the same. Sheila Scott requested better awareness of the needs of local traders.

The consultation phase would run through June and July; plans and feedback forms would be available in the Library, and through *Porty Online* at <http://portobello-edinburgh.org.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=1303> Feedback may be sent by email to [Stuart.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk).

### 229.4 Minutes of the 228th Meeting:

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

### 229.5 Matters Arising:

**Triathlon:** Lawrence Marshall has put Bruce Kidd and Edinburgh Leisure in touch with each other. Robert Gatliff has suggested that POD do something on the day.

- \* **Action:** Robert Gatliff to speak to Bruce Kidd.
- \* **Brighton Park sundial:** action ongoing (Celia Butterworth agreed to find out if any progress had been made on repairing the plinth).
- \* **Pedestrian crossing at Moira Terrace:** action ongoing (Lawrence Marshall to enquire about the delay).
- \* **TV aerial on new flats in Bath Street:** action ongoing (PAS to see if this breaches planning regulations).

## **229.6 Reports**

**229.6a Police:** police not present.

**229.6b Treasurer:** Account balances: Community Council £6,420.86, Joppa Tennis Club £5,071.34. Our subscription to the Rights of Way Society (£16) and rent for the hall (£50) are due. Insurance premiums of £131.78 are deducted from our City Council grant for public liability and information signs cover; this represents very good value.

**229.6c Joppa Tennis Courts:** Hazel Bett summarised the main points from the most recent Tennis Courts committee meeting. Coaching is being arranged. The fabric of the clubhouse is causing concern, and City Council help is being sought to rectify it. Security and signage are being improved. There will be a major programme of activities at the Play Tennis Day on 25th June, from 2pm to 5pm.

**229.6d Task Force:** There was no report. The Chairman asked Maureen Child and Lawrence Marshall to encourage a representative to attend future meetings.

\* **Action:** City Councillors to request a Task Force representative to attend Community Council meetings.

**229.6e Planning:** John Stewart reported that there was no further news about the bowling centre or the three applications he mentioned last month. He had written one letter on behalf of the Community Council, supporting the application for the John Street Community Garden.

### **229.6f Councillors:**

Maureen Child had not had a chance to produce her customary written report this month. She expected to see the speed bumps installed in the 20mph zones in the coming month. Extension of the zone to the Christians is currently under consideration.

Lawrence Marshall welcomed the superstore decision but was worried that the Reporter had not entirely ruled out such a development; Stephen Hawkins hoped that Duddingston House would consult the local community more seriously next time. Lawrence initiated a discussion about the future of the Powerleague soccer pitches, with the tender results due back to the Council on 7th June. One possibility would be to have around 150 houses built on the site, with 15% as affordable housing. Maureen Child pointed out that Portobello needs investment in the Library, Community Centre, High School and Towerbank, and some local amenities might have to be lost to achieve this, although she stressed that the Council had not taken a decision about this yet. Several people called for a very full consultation over these proposals. Lawrence also mentioned that Johnnie's Amusements is to be turned into five flats and a commercial outlet.

**229.6g Signs and Plaques:** no report this time.

**229.6h Portobello Traders:** Sheila Scott drew attention to the achievement of PCATS, and Diana Cairns and Stephen Hawkins, in opposing the superstore: the traders had only joined in when they saw how well PCATS was doing.

**229.6i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch:** Brian McCrow reported that the next meeting would be at 6:30pm on 14th June, in the Library's community room, and the new police inspector would be there.

## **229.7 Portobello Community Planning**

Brian McCrow summarised the main items currently being pursued, from the 74 which were identified at the initial planning meeting at the start of the year. Bob Jefferson has made considerable progress with provision for local youth and with the business directory in the website. Other topics under active consideration include CCTV for the Prom, a dog-free section of the beach (which Maureen Child indicated is still due to happen), full participation in the waterfront developments, energy emissions, a Portobello guide book, and a town centre manager. Lawrence Marshall said there had been a survey of public opinion about waterfront developments in Portobello the previous weekend, and both City Councillors referred to the difficulty of obtaining the views of the 15,000 local people; more public meetings were called for. Margaret Munro welcomed the fact that Portobello's was one of Scotland's top 50 beaches, but said that there needed to be more for families to do when they were here.

Bob Jefferson reported on the progress of his campaign to get better facilities for young people. 550 questionnaires have been returned from High School families and over a hundred from primary schools, and 58 parents have indicated a willingness to participate in future developments. Several meetings have been

held, with more to come. One possibility currently being investigated was to locate a skateboard park, youth shelters and sports court in the High School grounds, for use by the High School in school hours and open to all outwith these hours.

#### **229.8 A. O. B.**

1. **Communications:** The Secretary has copies of the following for anyone who would like to see them: the Newsletter of the Scottish Association of Community Councils; Guidance for Community Council involvement in Community Planning; the HMO report for March; and a warning about global warming from Baldernock Community Council.
2. **EACC:** The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils AGM is at 10am on 4th June, in the City Chambers, followed by a presentation on proportional representation in local government.
3. **Edinburgh's community councils:** There will be a joint meeting of Edinburgh's community councils at 7pm on 20th June in the City Chambers, on the theme of "engaging with young people".
4. **Edinburgh Marathon:** Volunteers are needed to help marshal the course for the 7,000 runners on Sunday 12th June, and a range of attractive incentives are offered. Anyone interested can contact 01620 890444 or email [info@edinburgh-marathon.co.uk](mailto:info@edinburgh-marathon.co.uk).
5. **Amnesty's refugee week:** David Turner drew attention to Amnesty International's Refugee Week from 20th to 26th June. Portobello's Amnesty Group will have a display in the Library which will include cards written by local people to express individual concern for refugees. Further details are available from David Turner, 7 Straiton Place.
6. **PAS AGM:** John Stewart invited all interested to the PAS AGM at 7:30pm on 8th June, in St Marks, at which George Haggarty will speak about East Coast Pottery.

#### **229.9 Future meetings**

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 June 2005.

Subsequent dates are: 29th August 2005  
26th September 2005  
31st October 2005  
28th November 2005  
30th January 2006