



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 230th meeting held on 27th June 2005 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Celia Butterworth, Maureen Child, Dawson Currie, Robert Gatliff, Bob Jefferson, Brian McCrow, Nora Mackenzie, Lawrence Marshall, Margaret Munro, Avril Scott, David Scott, Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Nick Stroud, Betty Young.

Apologies: Diana Cairns, Joyce Campbell, Alix Gaffney, Kathleen Hart, Stephen Hawkins, Brenda Molony, Tom Nimmo, Sheila Scott, John Smart, Sandy Smith, John Stewart.

In attendance: Graham Arkless, Elaine Goodlet.

230.1 Chairman's welcome: it had been hoped that Ron Dymond of the City's Cleansing department would be the guest speaker, but he was unfortunately not well enough to attend.

230.2 Minutes of the AGM and the 229th Meeting:

The minutes were accepted:

AGM: Proposed: Margaret Smith, Seconded: Dawson Currie.

229th meeting: Proposed: Margaret Munro, Seconded: Brian McCrow.

230.3 Matters Arising:

Triathlon entertainments: Robert Gatliff reported that Portobello Open Door (<http://www.the-pod.org/>) was planning to put on a whole afternoon of entertainments on 14th August, and was seeking sponsorship to cover the costs; he would circulate a proposal by email that the Community Council contribute up to £500.

Brighton Park sundial: Celia Butterworth has confirmed with Paul McAulay that the Community Council's contribution to the repair had been received, but there had been no progress with the actual repair.

Pedestrian crossing at Moira Terrace: Lawrence Marshall reported that the new crossing was due to be installed shortly.

TV aerial on new flats in Bath Street: nothing to report.

- * **Task Force:** held over to next meeting.

230.4 Reports

230.4a Police: No police representative was present.

230.4b Treasurer: Account balances: Community Council £6,441.95, Joppa Tennis Club £5,801.34.

230.4c Joppa Tennis Courts: Robert Gatliff reported that there had been a big turnout for the Open Day on 25th June, which had been a great success.

230.4d Task Force: Held over to next meeting.

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

230.4e Planning: The application for a new betting shop at the corner of the High Street and Bath Street had been turned down on the grounds of over-provision of non-retail outlets (the local plan specifies a maximum of 20%).

230.4f Councillors:

Maureen Child had circulated her report in advance by email.

Lawrence Marshall was concerned about the appearance of the two three-bedroom flats being built on the site of the old chip shop in Bath Street, but had been assured that they would fit in with the existing street

line. He was encouraging the City Council to bring the vacant land at the top of Figgate Street back into effective use. Consultations were just beginning on the new Edinburgh city local plan, and he was suggesting that the car showrooms should be moved to Newcraighall from their current prime seafront locations at Seafield. PAS will make a submission to the planning process on behalf of the Community Council and anyone with suggestions about this should send them to John Stewart. A new Youth Lounge has just opened at the Community Centre thanks to the efforts of Brian Greatorex and colleagues of the City Council.

Lawrence reported that the City Council has agreed to the sale of the SuperLeague site, and he was arguing that a new Community Centre should be built there but that the Library should stay where it is. There would be housing from Westbank Street to the end of the soccer pitches and the rest of the site would be for the community. He admitted that the City Council was only proposing to ring-fence *some* of the capital receipts from this sale for Portobello, and that the present Community Centre site would also have to be sold. On a more positive note he suggested that it might be possible to redevelop the whole area across the High Street from the Police Station to create a new civic square for Portobello. This topic will be a major theme at the next meeting, and at a special meeting in September or October.

(For information about the City Local Plan see

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CEC/City_Development/Planning_and_Strategy/Edinburgh_City_Local_Plan/ECLPIntro.html)

230.4g Signs, Plaques and coade stone: PAS has received £2,700 from the City Council for Alison Robinson's work with High School pupils on coade stone. An application was being made for lottery funding to install the coade stone pillars in the John Street community garden. The garden was due to be redeveloped between 11th July and 16th September, and it was agreed that there should be some kind of launch event when work was complete. A plaque was to be erected to Ned Barnie. The next sub-group meeting would be on 5th July.

230.4h Portobello Traders: no report this time.

230.4i Portobello Neighbourhood Watch: Brian McCrow reported that there had been a successful meeting with Portobello's new police inspector, Norman Ward.

230.4j Portobello website: Bob Jefferson offered a new batch of Party-online T-shirts at just £10 each to help generate more income to support the website, for which he was now recording interviews with local people.

230.5 Portobello Community Planning

Brian McCrow reported that some 80 initiatives had been identified, of which a few had already been completed and around 65 others were currently under active consideration, but would need help from other members of the Community Council (see appended notes).

Maureen Child and Lawrence Marshall have been asked by the City Council to lead community consultation about local developments, and they agreed to facilitate formal contact between the Community Council and the Portobello Working Group in the City Council.

It was agreed that the Community Council should organise a major public meeting in September or October to develop a coordinated strategy and initiate a programme of small meetings of working groups to take the proposals forward.

* **Action: Secretary to book the Town Hall for a public meeting, and Chairman to write an article about it for the Party Reporter.**

230.6 A. O. B.

1. **Party Reporter:** Margaret Smith congratulated Brenda Molony and the Reporter team on a particularly good issue on the paper's 25th anniversary.
2. **Community Award competition:** Robert Gatliff circulated a list of aspects by which communities are judged in this competition and asked for suggestions for the Portobello application.
3. **John Street community garden:** An application for funding of about £300 towards art work in the garden had failed, but it was agreed to offer £100 towards this if other funding could be found.

230.7 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 29th August 2005.

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

Portobello Strategic Development Plan

Brian McCrow extracted a small number of projects from the 65 currently under consideration for particular attention:

1. Waterfront Communities Project

The project manager is keen to talk to the Community Council, and should be invited to a future meeting.

2. Community Centre/Library development

This could be part of a significant development opposite the Police Station. Margaret Munro observed that the History Society needs space to store its archive and collection. Brian McCrow suggested that we should identify the accommodation that would be needed to support all Portobello's activities.

3. A new High School

The City Council needs to take a strong lead with this. Avril Scott agreed to pursue this locally, ensuring that all options were kept under consideration.

4. Playparks

Bob Jefferson has organised questionnaires and meetings with parents and the Council to improve local facilities for under-12s and for teenagers. It has emerged that the Council can't get enough painters, so volunteers are required to help with this.

5. Facilities for young people

Ron Tulloch of the City Council is investigating the possibility of having a "wheels park" in Figgate Park.

Basketball and football courts could be created in Rosefield Park, Joppa Quarry Park or at the High School, from where a response is awaited.

Portobello might benefit from having a big Internet café; Brian McCrow would write to Gregor Properties suggesting that this would be a good use of the ground floor of the new flats at the foot of Bath Street.

6. Bandstand

Brian McCrow has applied to the "People's Millions" for funding for a new bandstand (<http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/>).

7. Other projects

We have over 60 other projects needing to be taken forward. New suggestions included having more seating and picnic tables.