



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the 289th meeting held on 30th May 2011 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall**

**Present:** Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Lilian Graham, Caroline Hosking, Peter McColl, Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Brenda Molony (*Portobello Reporter*), Margaret Munro (Portobello History Society), Andrew Patterson (Portobello Council of Churches), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (PAS), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank Parents Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefield Residents).

**Apologies:** Tom Ballantine, Cllr Mike Bridgman, Nelson Johnstone, Lawrence Marshall (Portobello Older People's Project), Leon Thompson.

**In attendance:** Cathy Cherizard (CEC), Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Kenny MacAskill (MSP), Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Katie Quinn (CEC), John Young (Portobello Police) and several members of the public.

### **289.1 Chair's welcome**

John Stewart opened the ordinary meeting following the AGM.

### **289.2 Police report**

John Young gave a comprehensive police report. The ongoing Operation Pentameter has not uncovered any offences being committed in Portobello in relation to human trafficking. Crimes committed locally numbered 59 in April with 28 so far solved, and 39 in May with 15 so far solved. Several involved thefts from vehicles and drivers were warned to take more care over security; there was a continuing police operation to combat the theft of pedal cycles. Calls relating to youth problems were very much lower than last year. The local drink bye-law had proved a useful deterrent to antisocial drinking last year and would be used again this year as necessary; the effect is that people drinking on the Promenade or High Street have to stop if requested to do so by the police. Sgt Young also mentioned a national anti-violence campaign running from 1st June to 31st July to tackle weapons and alcohol-fuelled violence, and would be circulating the Safer Neighbourhood Newsletter shortly; this would be highlighting the danger of bogus callers, and seeking help to combat antisocial motorcycling.

Sgt Young encouraged everyone interested in local policing to complete the online survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YourPolice>

A member of the public asked if the police could do anything to prevent people urinating in public places, especially in the Bath Street area. Caroline Hosking asked about vandalism in local shops, and Dawson Currie asked about community safety and Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Sgt Young agreed to follow up these issues with the people involved, though pointed out that Neighbourhood Watch initiatives are now led by communities, not by the police.

Problems such as these can always be notified to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, as follows:

Email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk  
Tel: 0131 652 4147

\* **Action: John Young to follow up various local issues.**

### **289.3 Environment Update**

Cathy Cherizard introduced Katie Quinn who would be taking over as our representative from the East Team. She reported that the Town Hall meeting about traffic management had been a great success, with over a hundred leaflets returned before the meeting and more at it and since. Comments had been distilled into five main proposals which were being worked on before being presented to the Neighbourhood

Partnership. Responding to questions she said that any proposals would have to take their place in the queue for funding, and that knock-on effects in the wider area would be the subject of further public consultation.

Following up earlier actions, she reported that a member of the public wanted to have a commemorative bench, and this would be placed near the Town Hall bus stops; and all local gullies had been power-washed to improve drainage. She agreed to check on continuing reports of flooding at the junction of Brighton Place and the High Street and on difficulty accessing the water supply in the renewed pavement near the Fair Trade shop.

Katie Quinn reported that the City Council planned to resurface the High Street in September. There would be more detailed information and consultation nearer the time. She agreed to check with utility companies about any plans for pipe renewal work, so that it could be coordinated with the resurfacing work.

- \* **Action: Cathy Cherizard or Katie Quinn to investigate reports of problems at Brighton Place and by the Fair Trade shop.**
- \* **Action: Katie Quinn to see if any utility companies are planning work in the High Street.**

## **289.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted: proposed by Diana Cairns, seconded by Anne Ward.

## **289.5 Matters arising**

**289.5a** ‘Human Trafficking’ in Edinburgh (288.5a). *See item 289.2.*

**289.5b** Public meeting to discuss traffic issues (288.5b). Done (*see item 289.3*).

**289.5c** Seat at Town Hall bus stops (288.5c). Done (*see item 289.3*).

**289.5d** Bus shelter in Milton Road East (288.5d). The City Council had replied to say that they didn’t own the bus shelter we had suggested they use, but they would increase the priority for this site.

- \* **289.5e** Community Council constitution (288.5e). Diana Cairns reported that she was waiting until Eileen Hewitt returned as the City Council’s liaison officer on 1st June before proceeding with this.
- \* **Action: Diana Cairns to write to Eileen Hewitt of the City Council explaining our reasons for wanting 50 rather than 20 people as the number to require a special meeting of the Community Council.**

**289.5f** Double yellow lines in conservation areas (288.5f). Diana Cairns had made some progress with this and was awaiting further information.

**289.5g** Maintenance of Harry Lauder memorial garden (288.5i). John Stewart had discovered that a local community gardening group leases the land behind the Town Hall and as part of that arrangement are supposed to maintain the Harry Lauder memorial garden.

- \* **Action: John Stewart to check with Scott Thomson that the gardening group would take care of the memorial garden.**

**289.5h** Advertising website and Library presence in *Portobello Reporter* (288.7). Diana Cairns had done this.

**289.5i** Consultation sub-group (288.7). Diana Cairns had arranged a meeting for this as requested; the group would meet for the first time on 6th June.

**289.5j** Responses to Police and Fire Service consultations (288.9 & 288.10). Stephen Hawkins had drafted our responses as requested.

**289.5k** Planning application for Gilberstoun shop (288.11c). Diana Cairns had written as requested.

**289.5l** Disabled access to beach and sea (288.12a). Nick Stroud had applied for this as requested.

**289.5m** Community Council crest in heritage trail leaflet (288.12b). John Stewart arranged this as requested.

## 289.6 Agree Agenda and AOB

A couple of items were identified for discussion under AOB. It was agreed to omit much of the usual business to allow a prompt finishing time.

## 289.7 Joppa Tennis Courts

This item was held over to the June meeting as Robert Gatliff and Leon Thompson were not present.

- \* **Action: Joppa Tennis Courts to be on agenda for June meeting.**

## 289.8 Reports

*Most of the reports were deferred to the next meeting to save time.*

**289.8a Police:** *See item 289.2.*

**289.8b Treasurer:** Year-end balances in the bank: Community Council: £2,577.09; Joppa Tennis Courts: £7,347.53; Boards and Plaques: £81.72.

**289.8c Neighbourhood Partnership:** Peter McColl reported that the next meeting would be on 8th June, at the High School.

**289.8d Environmental Update:** *See item 289.3.*

**289.8e Planning:** John Stewart reported that the application for a Gilberstoun shop had been withdrawn, and that the application to build flats at 21–23 Windsor Place had been approved with certain conditions that were to be met in consultation with the City Council's head of Planning.

Sean Watters outlined plans to build new classrooms and a nursery at Towerbank so that the whole, expanding School could be brought together on one site and the annexe in Bath Street relinquished. The School would experience great difficulty in accommodating all its pupils until the new buildings were ready, hopefully early in 2013. Several members of the public who live in Wilson's Park commented on the adverse impact the proposed nursery building would have on their homes, and on the likely increase in traffic and consequent reduction in safety. It was agreed that we should object to the proposed nursery roof for being far too high when it could be lower, of different cross-section, or even flat. Nick Stroud was asked to write supporting the general principle of the development but objecting specifically to the height of the roof of the building on the Wilson's Park side.

John Stewart described a problem that had arisen over a block of flats being built on land to the north-west of 78 High Street, adjacent to Pipe Street Lane. Planning permission had been granted in 2005 for a three-storey block of flats with ground-floor parking, but problems over measurements had resulted in the building being higher than permitted, and local residents were objecting to new planning permission being granted to allow this. It was agreed to object to the proposal on the grounds that there wasn't sufficient information to determine the impact the development would have on surrounding homes.

- \* **Action: Nick Stroud to write to the City Council's Planning Department about the Towerbank development, circulating the draft for comment.**
- \* **Action: Diana Cairns to write to the City Council's Planning Department objecting to the plans for the development at land NW of 78 Portobello High Street.**

**289.8f Signs and Plaques:** Celia Butterworth reported that the seashore board at Eastfield had been given a new covering which had restored its colours, and that the sub-group was still considering what to do about the board at Marlborough Street.

**289.8g Community Centre:** David Scott reported that the AGM would be on 31st May, and the next ordinary meeting on 14th June.

**289.8h Baptist Church Clock:** John Stewart reported that the Heritage Trust had been researching the history of the clock. It had been gifted to Portobello Burgh Council in 1868 on condition that it was not removed from the building where it was installed, which duty had passed to Edinburgh City Council on amalgamation in 1896. The Baptist Church had only moved into this building in the 1920s. The Heritage Trust had put this position to the City Council, whose legal services department was now considering the position. The City Council had already spent £50,000 restoring the clock; the Heritage Trust would seek funding for its re-installation if the City Council accepted ownership and ongoing responsibility.

**289.8i Councillors:** Maureen Child circulated copies of her latest report. Stephen Hawkins reported problems in the City Council's conservation department, with the restoration of the Portobello kiln one of some 200 projects that needed to be sorted out; and announced that the City Council had appointed three officials to coordinate the development of the 'city's local town centres'. The official appointed for Leith and Portobello would be visiting the Community Council later in the year.

## **289.9 Any Other Business**

### **289.9a EACC AGM**

Dawson Currie reported that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils was about to hold its AGM, and that the Community Council could nominate its own representative and also the chair, secretary and treasurer. It was agreed that Dawson should continue as our representative, and that John Stewart and Diana Cairns should complete the necessary nomination forms.

- \* **Action: John Stewart and Diana Cairns to complete EACC nomination forms.**

### **289.9b The Big Welcome from Big Things On The Beach**

Jan Killeen reported that Big Things on the Beach was planning 'The Big Welcome', an event on 24th July to be part of the UK-wide 'cultural olympiad'. This would take the form of a 'collective tea-time' for which individuals and groups would bring decorated tablecloths to place on the sea wall along the Promenade, then share comestibles with passers-by as part of the build-up to the Olympic Games. Four workshops would be organised from the end of June to help organise the event, which would be centred on the 'cake stand' at Marlborough Street and would include music and other entertainments. The group was also planning to lead workshops and discussions on the role of the public in public art, with funding from Creative Scotland who are keen to involve communities more in enhancing their local environment. There would be more information about this in the Reporter and on the BTOTB website at:

<http://www.bigthingsonthebeach.org.uk/>

- \* **Action: All, to consider volunteering to provide a tablecloth and cakes on 24th July.**

## **289.10 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, Edinburgh EH15 1EU.

The next meeting is on 27th June 2011

Subsequent dates are: 29th August 2011 (no meeting in July)  
26th September 2011  
31st October 2011  
28th November 2011