



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 304th meeting held on 26th November 2012 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Tom Ballantine, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Caroline Hosking, Nelson Johnstone, Lawrence Marshall, Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Andrew Patterson (Council of Churches), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

Apologies: Sandra Blake, Cllr Michael Bridgman, Mandy Lawson (PEDAL), Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Peter McColl, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Clare Symonds (Planning Democracy), Leon Thompson.

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Kenny MacAskill MSP, Barry Mercer (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Malcolm Betts, Colin Cuthbert, Gillian Dunn, Vicki Fairbairn, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Avril Scott, Ian Wilson, and other members of the public.

304.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

304.2 Police Report

Barry Mercer presented his report (see appended).

304.3 Environment update

Katie Quinn couldn't attend the meeting but Sean Watters summarised the November Environmental Report (see appended). Archie Burns asked for further explanation as to why the road markings to the Prom had been delayed. Nelson Johnstone noted that disabled parking bays in Coillesdene, installed over a year ago, still didn't have accompanying signs. Sean Watters agreed to raise the issues with Katie Quinn.

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to raise points with Katie Quinn.**

304.4 Presentation from Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy

Clare Symonds was unable to attend due to illness.

304.5 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Leon Thompson had corrected a figure given under item 303.9a, the balance in the account being £2,037.39. Diana Cairns had suggested two changes to the minutes; the wording of item 303.4 regarding the previous minutes, and for Tom Ballantine's name to be put against the Action regarding consultation on alcohol provision. After discussion it was clarified that this action had not been assigned to anyone in particular, and it was agreed to discuss the issue further under matters arising.

With changes to items 303.4 and 303.9, the minutes were approved: proposed by ----, seconded by ---

304.6 Matters arising

304.6a Noise from football pitches (303.5b): No update.

- ✿ **Action: Robert Gatliff to contact the neighbour regarding the noise problem.**

304.6b Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (303.5d): The National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed at a future meeting.

- ✿ **Action: National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed in February.**

304.6c Donation to Portobello Older Peoples Project (303.5e): The £100 donation had been given.

304.6d Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (303.5f): The submitted response had been circulated.

304.6e Transport (303.5g): Sean Watters reported that Sarah Woodford had gone back to Lothian Buses regarding a date for redoing the livery, but that he hadn't heard anything further as yet. Nick Stroud had sent a letter to Tour Bus operators, but was yet to receive a reply. John Stewart had also supplied Scottish Natural Heritage with information on Portobello for their on-line database.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Sarah Woodford again the 26 buses.**
- ✿ **Action: Nick Stroud awaiting a response from Tour Bus operators.**
- ✿ **Action: Ben McLeish to follow up with LRT on opportunities to promote our seaside.**

304.6f Treasurer (303.5h): The issue of increasing the rent for the hall had been raised and a response was awaited.

304.6g Telephone Kiosk (303.5j): The kiosk was in the process of being decorated, and the fundraising project had raised £855 in the first week.

304.6h Social Network Media (303.7): Peter McColl had consolidated the Twitter account, and a meeting of the consultation sub-group had been arranged for the following Thursday.

- ✿ **Action: Consultation sub-group to bring forward proposals on the management and regulation of the Twitter and Facebook accounts.**

304.6i Christmas Lights (303.8): Colin Cuthbert had undertaken trials of possible lighting arrangements and information on this had been circulated. After discussion it was agreed that it would be best to look at this for next year, with the involvement of the Council and local traders. Colin Cuthbert advised that August or September would be a good time to consider it. The Community Council thanked Colin Cuthbert for the work he had done.

304.6j Planning (303.9c): Due to an oversight, a response to the Fort Kinnaird application had not been submitted.

It was reported that the Sainsbury's alcohol licence had been approved and there then followed a discussion of various issues relating to alcohol. One issue raised was that, despite over-provision being a growing concern, the Licensing Forum which sets policy in the area had not met since before the election in May. It was agreed to write requesting the Licensing Forum meet to review the policy.

- ✿ **Action: Diana Cairns to circulate a draft letter to the Licensing Board.**

At the October meeting it had been agreed that consultation on the issue of alcohol would be desirable, but the task had not been assigned to any individuals. Sean Watters volunteered to look into it further and come back with proposals on how a consultation might be conducted.

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to draw up proposals for a consultation on alcohol.**

304.6h Referendum (303.10a): Alastair Cameron had agreed to provide more information on the referendum events planned.

304.6i Community Council event (303.10b): Diana Cairns and Sean Watters had attended the event at the City Chambers.

304.6j PCC November social (303.10e): Diana Cairns, Maria Devoy and Sean Watters were thanked for their help in arranging the November social event.

304.7 Agree AOB

It was agreed to discuss a proposed presentation from the Project Team regarding the Portobello Park Private Bill. David Scott wished to mention an item relating to the Portobello Burns Club Supper.

304.8 Reports

304.8a Treasurer: The balance in the account stood at £1,937.79.

304.8b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership would be at Portobello High School, Wednesday November 28th, 6:30pm.

304.8c Planning: An application for a new Toddlers Hut building had been submitted. It was agreed to submit a letter of support for the application.

✿ **Action: Sean Watters to submit a letter of support for the Toddlers Hut application.**

The Sainsbury's planning application was discussed. Whilst there was general agreement that latest amended plans were an improvement, there was a feeling that they could be better and that it was disappointing that Sainsbury's were still not proposing to use one of their Heritage designs. It was agreed to write to the Convenor of the Development Management Sub-Committee and the Case Officer, highlighting these concerns.

✿ **Action: John Stewart to write to the Convenor of the DMSC and the Case Officer.**

304.8d Signs & plaques: Celia Butterworth reported that two boards had been renovated and were much improved. Also the minutes of the sub-committee's meetings were now up on the PCC web-site thanks to Joe Madden.

304.8e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next meeting was Tuesday 4th December, at the Community Centre. He also extended an invitation to individuals to try the skittles at the Sheep's Heid.

304.8f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

304.8g Councillors: Cllr Child reported that the new East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library had opened and was well worth a visit.

304.9 AOB

304.9a Presentation on the Portobello Park Private Bill: A request had come from the Council's Project Team to attend a Community Council meeting in December or January, in order to give a presentation on the proposals regarding a Portobello Park Private Bill. With no meeting of the Community Council in December, and the January meeting very late in the consultation process, it was decided to arrange a Special Meeting of the Community Council on Monday 7th January, at 7:30pm, in Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

◆ **Action: Special PCC Meeting, Monday 7th January.**

304.9b Portobello Burns Club: David Scott circulated information on the Portobello Burns Club supper, to be held at Duddingston Golf Club, Duddingston Road West, on Friday 18th January, 7:15pm. Further information and tickets were available from the Treasurer on 0131 669 4471.

304.10 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 28th January 2013 (305: no meeting in December)

Subsequent dates are: 25th February 2013 (306)
25th March 2013 (307)
29th April 2013 (308)

Portobello Community Council on the Web: <http://www.portobelloc.org/>

The Safer Neighbourhood Team: tel: (0131) 652 4147
email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Environmental Report – November 2012

Actions from October Meeting:

- The Roads Team anticipate that the road markings to complement the new signage on the Prom are to be installed early next year
- The bins at the junction of Bridge Street and Portobello High Street had been replaced with smaller containers, with the aim of improving visibility for drivers at this junction. Some local residents were still concerned that this change hadn't improved the sightlines for motorists and as such, the existing parking restrictions will now be extended 5 metres westward. This will also mean that the bins will be moved a further 5 metres from the junction. The Roads Team have applied for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in order to achieve this solution. TRO's are open to public consultation and can take up to 10 months to implement, as long as no objections are received.

Portobello Fingerposts

After the meeting and assessment of the fingerposts in September, it's anticipated work will begin to restore them in early 2013. Our blacksmith will be in touch with us shortly to let us know how much of this work can be done in situ, or whether some of the posts will need to be taken away and repaired.

Rosefield Park

The multi use games area is now complete and available to use, as is the petanque court. The planting of the shrub beds will be carried out during the winter months and the railings will be replaced in 2013.

Portobello Community Garden

Maintenance work will be carried out in the garden over the winter months. This will involve the digging out and replacement of the plants in the shrub flower beds within the garden.

Right First Time Road Repairs

Permanent road and pavement repairs within Portobello are ongoing at the moment. The team are currently working in Marlborough Street until 23 November, and after this time will be moving on to the following streets:

Bath Street: Monday 26 - Friday 30 November 2012

Straiton Place: Sunday 2 - Thursday 6 December 2012

Regent Street: the team will complete remaining repairs between Sunday 9 - Thursday 13 December

New East Neighbourhood Centre

The East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library officially opens on Monday 26 November at 10am. Our new address is 101 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DS, and the switchboard can be reached on 0131 529 3111.

Thanks

Katie

Katie Quinn | Environment Services Development Officer | City of Edinburgh Council | East Neighbourhood Office, 86 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DT | Tel: 0131 529 3298 | Fax: 0131 529 3011 | kathryn.quinn@edinburgh.gov.uk | www.edinburgh.gov.uk/east | www.twitter.com/east_team

Portobello Community Council Police Report – November 2012

Portobello/Joppa Beat Update

Crime Update

So far during November there have been 50 crimes reported in the Portobello and Joppa area. These are for a variety of offences but over half of them are either vandalism or crimes of dishonesty.

There has been an increase in vehicular accidents in the Portobello/Joppa area this month with 9 being reported. 4 of these incidents were “hit and run” incidents where the offending driver failed to leave details or report the accident at a police station. Only one of the accidents this month involved any injury, which was minor and not connected to the hit and run incidents.

Thefts from house and vehicles

The importance of home security and awareness is imperative in combating would be thieves in the area. Thefts from houses and cars are continuing to blight us all and fall into three main areas.

1. Thefts from unoccupied houses – ensure you have quality locks on the doors and windows and check they are all locked when leaving the house. Security lights and alarms are also recommended and please take care not to leave any tools in gardens that could be used to force entry to a house.
2. Theft “slip in” – A number of thefts have occurred while occupiers were in their houses but left the front door unlocked. It is always best practice to lock your access doors at all times and never leave keys, phones, laptops etc near to main doors. These crimes are committed very quickly and it is often several hours or days before the victim realises that it has happened.
3. Thefts from vehicles – If possible remove all items of value from your car when parking it up. If this is not always possible then hide all items out of sight. Never leave a bag or jacket lying on a seat even if it is empty as this may be enough to tempt the culprit to force entry to the car.

In the past two weeks three individuals have been arrested and charged with multiple thefts from the area and at present are awaiting further court proceedings.

Uniformed patrols are being increased in the local area and we will be handing out leaflets and literature regarding crime prevention. Additional crime prevention advice is available from Lothian and Borders Police website via the link below.

http://lbpcmsstaging/Internet/crime_prevention/home_security.aspx where you can also arrange for an officer to carry out a crime prevention of your property.

If you see anything suspicious please contact the police and pass as much information as possible including descriptions of people and their clothing.

On the beat

Police are appealing for witnesses to an assault and robbery that occurred on the Promenade.

At around 4.30pm on Saturday 10 November a woman in her forties was walking along Portobello Promenade towards Seafield with two friends when a male cyclist cycled towards them. As he passed the group, he punched the woman before grabbing her bag and trying to steal it. The women screamed and the suspect made off empty handed before being lost to sight in the direction of the Edinburgh Cat and Dog Home. Officers are now carrying out enquiries to trace the suspect and are asking anyone who might have seen the incident or who recognises the description of the suspect to come forward.

He is described as being a white man in his forties and of medium / muscled build, with a bald or shaved head and blue eyes. At the time of the incident, he was wearing an outdoor jacket and was riding a mountain bike.

This type of incident is rare in the area but if you have any information please make contact via the details at the end of the report.

Local Policing/Community Priorities – You Said...We Did

The policing priorities for the Craigmillar/Portobello area are

1. Reduce youth disorder in the Brunstane Farm and Gilberstoun area
2. Tackle under age drinking and associated behaviour in Rosefield Park
3. Provide advice to prevent thefts from houses and cars in Brighton Place and Duddingston Park.

Along with our partner agencies we attend various local meetings and community walkabouts to identify other issues and engage with the residents. If there are any other local issues affecting you please contact the Portobello/Craigmillar Safer Neighbourhood team via the details below.

Tel: 0131 652 4147 (office)

Tel: 0131 311 3131 (24hours)

email: ADivSNTCraigmillarPortobello@lbp.pnn.police.uk

We continue to target the persons responsible for causing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour and provide a high visibility presence. We depend on community engagement and information and encourage all members of the public to report any incidents or information. Confidential information can be passed anonymously to crime stoppers on **0800-555-111** or at **crimestoppers-uk.org**.