



# **PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT Minutes of the 270th meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall**

**Present:** Archie Burns (PPAG), Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns (Acting Joint Secretary, PCATS), Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff (Chair), Caroline Hosking (Acting Joint Secretary), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer, CAB), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Margaret Munro (Vice Chair, Portobello History Society), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), Margaret Smith (Portobello Labour Party), Tom Smith, John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Sean Watters (PFANS)

**Apologies:** Cllr Mike Bridgman, James Hunter (CEC), Kenny MacAskill MSP, Lawrence Marshall, Peter McColl (PEDAL), David Turner (Portobello Amnesty Group), Margaret Williamson (Portobello High School)

**In attendance:** Susan Carr (Minutes), Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Sarah Potter (Portobello Police)

### **270.1 Chair's welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Stuart Mackay from Carillion who will give a short presentation on the flood prevention scheme funded by the City of Edinburgh Council before the start of the agenda.

### **270.2 Carillion Presentation – The Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme**

Stuart thanked the meeting for the opportunity to give this presentation. There are 13 units of work which are part of the Braid Burn flood prevention scheme, which will provide a 1:200 year level of protection to at risk properties when complete. By resolving flooding problems upstream (for example Colinton and Duddingston) there is the potential that Adelphi Place could be put at higher risk, for that reason a bypass culvert is under construction. The start of works at Adelphi Place was significantly delayed until the least disruptive and most efficient method of construction was selected. There were 2 choices: a) Upgrade the wall in the burn channel which proved massively disruptive b) Construct a 240m bypass with Baileyfield Industrial Estate. The work on the bypass started in May and is currently ahead of schedule and they should have finished the heavy civil works around October. The rest of the work e.g. fencing and landscaping will be completed in November when it will be ready for public use.

There was a slide show which showed existing and new structures around Baileyfield which shows the culvert takes the overflow from the river and gives the river double its capacity. The footbridge is higher than before and there is a new trash screen to catch debris and prevent blockages in areas inaccessible by the maintenance team. There have been changes in the approach to prevent damage to the listed wall. The fire brigade will perform an exercise in the culvert before it is sealed to assess the safety risks. Landscaping drawings were circulated to show the proposed planting and there will be a meeting for local residents, Standard Life and the PCC; any comments should be fed in through PCC.

There were questions about the following issues; Maintenance – will CEC ensure that they are cleaned regularly? The new structure is stepped to make this easier. Has the current worked caused debris in the area and what steps will be taken to clear up? It will all be remedied before the site is left. How will people know when a flood is expected? Because Portobello is the end of the line flooding will manifest itself before it reaches Portobello. There are gauges that SEPA etc monitor and they will notify CEC. Will the flooding be worse than before and be a greater risk for Portobello? The scheme has been designed and there is a contractual requirement to show that it is no worse than before the works commenced. Will the new brickwork match the old? It will be very difficult to achieve this but best endeavours will be made. If the burn is to carry more water will this affect the quality of the sea water? The burn will be carrying more water because it will not be flooding elsewhere but this should not affect the quality of the sea water. There has been a flood risk assessment for 2080 that states that there is a risk of flooding from the bottom culvert

over the Promenade and into Bridge Street, particularly at high tide. Why is no work being done to this part of the Burn? Stuart thought there was not enough risk identified in the part between Portobello High Street and the sea but he would escalate the concern to Aecom, design consultants for the Council, and request that the Council respond on this matter.

Stuart thanked everyone for their time and asked that any queries be forwarded to him.

### **270.3 Minutes of the AGM**

The minute was proposed as a correct record by Diana and seconded by Celia.

### **270.4 Matters Arising**

**The Treasurer's Report** – Following a question as to whether POL Web-site monies are ring fenced, Maria Devoy explained that there were ongoing costs associated with the hosting of the site and therefore the monies allocated to the Web-site in the Accounts, are fully required.

### **270.5 Minutes of the 269<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Tom and seconded by Brenda.

### **270.6 Matters Arising**

**268.9d Kings Road Junction** - Dawson asked whether there had been any feedback from Cllr Bridgman as to whether the camera at the Junction is recording or is monitored. In Cllr Bridgman's absence it was not possible to respond. Caroline raised on behalf of Lawrence Marshall that the 'Welcome to Portobello' Sign has disappeared. Cllr Child advised she had enquired into this and this should return when the final landscaping is finished. Brenda raised a concern that there is a lack of signs to show the correct lanes to get in for Portobello and the Bypass. Concerns were also raised about the crossing at Fishwives Causeway and that signals for pedestrian crossings in general seem to have been affected since the Traffic Signals have been completed, so that they are no longer pedestrian priority. Cllr Hawkins will look into this.

**269.7 Portobello Sailing Club** – There was a proposal at the previous meeting that £500 might be given for a specific project. There was a discussion on whether PCC had sufficient funds to make a donation. It was noted that it had been previously agreed that the money should only be given on the presentation to the community council of a specific project proposal accepted by PCC. The Chair to make this clear to Jonathan Bendit.

### **269.10a – Response to CEC Open Space Strategy**

Margaret felt strongly that there is a need to respond to the proposals on the CEC Open Space Strategy. The report gives an inaccurate reflection on the amount of open space available in Portobello. The Promenade has been suggested as a civic space and the beach is not classified at all. According to the CEC there is to be a full and participatory consultation on this and it will include all public and privately owned open space which is accessible in differing degrees. PCC should give a response to this proposal. There are fears that there are conflicting reports e.g. this shows an inordinate amount of space and North East Edinburgh Local Plan shows that Portobello has a shortage of open space. There are also concerns that this audit may be about identifying development opportunities. The audit is broken down into Neighbourhood partnership areas and in this NP area will include open fields etc in Craigmillar which have been reserved for housing development.

It was noted that this is the first draft and they are open to amending it if required. The CEC are currently categorising every piece of land and the Neighbourhood Partnership for Portobello/Craigmillar currently is deemed to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest allocation of open space because the Promenade is included – it would be significantly different if it is taken out. There was a lengthy discussion on whether the Promenade is a local or city wide amenity and clarity is needed on CEC's interpretation of this.

Diana agreed to prepare a response and circulate it to everyone interested to meet the 10<sup>th</sup> July deadline.

**269.9f Environment - Promenade (land near the Dog and Cat Home)** A concern was raised that cars are able to access the beach there although it was reported that gates have been ordered and should be in place by the end of August. People were also parking there so that they had access for jet skis. It was suggested that the police should run more checks in that area as it has also been used to abandon cars.

**269.9g Planning – Gilberstoun Residents & Notice Board** Robert reported that the Application for a notice board has been completed.

**269.10e Portobello Older People’s Project (POPP)** – It was reported that they have found the necessary monies therefore there is no immediate threat.

## **270.7 Agree AOCB**

Christian path and the Library were agreed as items for discussion under AOCB.

## **270.8 Cycling on the Promenade**

An exchange of letters in the Evening News and a response from cyclists had brought this to the forefront again and Robert had received letters from two residents supporting the status quo. There was a lengthy discussion with some people saying they do not object to cycling provided that it is done sensibly. The police view is that there are no by-laws but charges can be made e.g. if someone is knocked down. There are many streets which join the Promenade, with reduced visibility for pedestrians/cyclists, many very young children use the Promenade and there is also an older person’s residential home whose main entrance is onto the Promenade. There was general agreement that a cycle lane is not practical in this location.

## **270.9 Town Centre Regeneration**

It was noted that a report from the CEC indicates that an application for funding of £542K to regenerate Portobello Town Centre has been applied for and states that the community has been heavily involved as have the Traders. It was felt that this was not necessarily correct and that only the Neighbourhood Partnership and its sub groups have been consulted. It was explained that some of the consultation had taken place a while ago when the first upgrading was carried out and that because time was of the essence that data had been used.

It was explained that this fund only became available recently and there were only a few weeks to pull the bid together. It is only a proposal and the bid may not be successful. All of the local Councillors agreed that this was an opportunity to continue the work started in Phase 1 which was agreed and this is Phase 2. The decision will not be made until August and the work will have to be undertaken very quickly to ensure that the money is spent before March 2010. It is expected that there will be opportunities to refine the scheme if it is successful.

## **270.10 Suggestions for a Portobello Flag and a measured mile on the Promenade**

Robert introduced this item. He explained that he had received two suggestions - for a Portobello Flag and a measured mile on the Promenade. What are needed are volunteers to spend some time working on researching the costs and making applications for funding. The costs required are for a flag, flagpole and fittings for the measured mile. Consultation has taken place in the past with positive responses. There were questions on what design would be used e.g. the Portobello Coat of Arms similar to the School badge? Who replaces the flag when it needs replacing? Who has responsibility for raising and lowering it and for what occasions? It was agreed that more information was required before a decision can be made.

## **270.11 Topics for Future Meetings**

**a) Towerbank School** – Sean requested to speak for 10 minutes at the August meeting to discuss developments.

**b) No2EDI** – A timetable for a report from EDI on their proposals at Gilberstoun/Newcraighall is expected. A letter drafted by David will be sent to Caroline/Diana for circulation.

## **270.12 Reports**

**270.12a Police** – The majority of calls are youth related and associated with the Promenade and the beach, probably because of the recent good weather. The Summer Initiative starts on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and lasts until mid August. The plan is to have activities arranged and will include the Army and the Coastguard etc. A caravan will be there and they will hand out safety bracelets to children as they did last year. The cameras will be moved from the High Street to the Promenade for the duration of the initiative. One recent incident involved the Fire Brigade and the Police called to a barbeque being held on the beach by local people – no charges were made and police often use a little discretion for this type of activity. There is a new sergeant called Bob Mason who will attend a future meeting to introduce himself.

**270.12b Treasurer** - Kathleen Hart reported that the Treasurers Account balance is £2612.19p (less £1000 for donation to PONGS) and the Joppa Tennis Courts account is £10,414.16p.

**270.12c P/C Neighbourhood Partnership** – No report was given.

**270.12d Edinburgh Association of Community Councils** – The recent AGM went well with a new Chair elected (David Saltoun from Corstorphine CC) and each CC is entitled to send 1 representative to the Executive Committee. A recent newsletter has been circulated.

**270.12e Portobello Online** – An email from someone who is keen to starting rowing options again in Portobello has been passed to Jonathan.

**270.12f Environmental Update** – The following report was given by Cathy Cherizard, CEC, on behalf of James Hunter:

The new gates at Brighton Park are now in place. Portobello Community Garden judged by Green Flag Award - result expected in July. Volunteer gardeners are helping to look after Portobello Town Hall Garden. A bid has been made to the Scottish Government for Town Centre Regeneration Funding. The results of this application are expected in late July / early August.

Gates/barrier at the The Promenade/King's Road. A works order is with the Blacksmith and they currently anticipate early August before completion. The Figgate Boardwalk – an event will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> July which starts at 10.00am. The Environment Forum held a residents' bus tour in late May to identify and select projects for investment. Projects in Portobello include - High Street pavement between Figgate Street and Bridge Street.

There were a few concerns with the report e.g. can we be sure that the Promenade gates will be strong enough this time? There also concerns that the water in the Figgate Park is quite deep in places and would there be protective railings fitted to meet health and safety concerns? Finally the window boxes at the Town Hall are in a very poor condition with weeds and grass growing from them. It was felt that it would be better to have them removed altogether. Cathy will let James have a note of these concerns.

**270.12g Planning** – There were several planning applications considered:

Conversion of the Tides Inn pub at 56 Kings Road to two dwellings was considered favourably.

Fun Park Site (1 Pipe Lane) The Traffic/Flood Risk Assessment Reports for this Planning Application are now available for consultation and these give, when analysed, considerable cause for concern on grounds including traffic, effect on Bridge Street Junction, parking, and flood risks. John will make a response from PAS and Diana will respond on behalf of PCC.

Baileyfield Site (former Scottish Power site) – The Transport Assessment Report for this Planning Application is now available and John, Celia, Diane and Caroline will meet to prepare a response from PCC. Robert stated he had written in on behalf of a resident in Musselburgh who has been in dispute with BL over his property.

Licence Application for a Metal dealers - Fishwives Causeway. Caroline stated that PCC has objected due to the proximity to houses, and likely noise and other problems associated with this type of activity.

**270.12h Signs & Plaques** –The Kings Road board will be up by the end of June.

**270.12i Portobello High School** – No report given.

**270.12j Joppa Tennis Courts** – No report given.

**270.12k Portobello Traders** – No report given.

**270.12l Portobello Community Centre** – There will be no meeting until September.

**270.12m Community development planning** – No report given.

**270.12n Communicating with communities** – No report given due.

**270.12o Councillors** – Cllr Child gave a written report. Cllr Hawkins reported that the Community Council Scheme review has now been adopted, subject to an exclusion of political parties as an interest group. Cllr Bridgman did not leave an update for the issues he was dealing with.

## **270.13 Any Other Competent Business**

**270.13a Library** – An email from Joyce Campbell was read giving details of the Library refurbishment and consultation on this.

Portobello Library internal Refurbishment (including library shelving, flooring, paintwork, cabling and furnishings) is scheduled to take place this year and to be completed as early as possible, during autumn 2009.

There will be a public consultation with plans on view in the library as soon as they have the floor plans and the furniture supplier. This is likely to be in August.

The refurbishment will entail a closure period to allow removal of old fittings and floorings and new installation. The library service will be maintained by having a Mobile Library van on site.

**270.13b Christian Path** – This was discussed at the last PAS meeting. It has now been established who owns this (Sustrans) and noted that it is in a very poor state. At Windsor Place in particular it needs to be taken in hand as there is considerable fly-tipping and it is impassable in bad weather. James Hunter has been given the relevant contact details and will keep us informed.

**270.13c Edinburgh Tenants Federation** – The annual report will be placed in the library.

**270.13d NHS** – Information on the Health Link Appraisal was noted.

**270.13e Edinburgh Science Festival** – They have made an approach because the theme for next year is marine and they would like to have a week in Portobello sometime next spring.

**270.13f Housekeeping** – The Chair noted that Tom has been responsible for the security and housekeeping of this venue for a very long time and he has recently indicated that he will be giving this up. We now need to have volunteers to take this responsibility and carry it out on a rota basis. The Chair will be first for tonight and he will nominate someone to do it next time.

## **270.14 Future meetings**

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 at 7.30pm** in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street. Subsequent meetings will take place on:

Monday 28 September 2009

Monday 26 October 2009

Monday 30 November 2009 (festive)

December 2009 No Meeting