



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 264th meeting held on 24th November 2008 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Diana Cairns (PCATS), Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Kathleen Hart (Treasurer), Caroline Hosking, Peter McColl (PEDAL), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Margaret Munro (Vice Chair), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), Margaret Smith (Portobello Labour Party), Tom Smith, John Stewart (PAS), David Turner (Amnesty Group), Sean Watters (PFANS), William Wilson.

Apologies: Archie Burns (PPAG), Celia Butterworth, Robert Gatliff (Chair), Sheila Scott (Merchants & Hoteliers), James Hunter (CEC), Gavin Strang MP, Lawrence Marshall.

In attendance: Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Laura Plumb, Archie Foley, Margaret O'Neill, Ian Campbell, Anne Ward, A Robinson, John Lau, Mr & Mrs Singh, Wallace Traill, Honor Flynn, Norrie Davies, Susan Carr, Terry Tweed.

264.1 Chair's welcome

Vice Chair Margaret Munro welcomed everyone to the meeting, and said it was good to have people in attendance from Craigmillar Community Council and residents.

264.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The acceptance of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Brenda Molony and seconded by John Stewart.

264.3 Matters arising from previous meetings

261.4c Project funding by Neighbourhood Partnership (Minute 260.7c): Carried forward: Peter McColl has drafted a letter to the Neighbourhood Partnership requesting more money for local projects but is unsure whether this has been sent off.

Action: Peter will re-send to Caroline and Diana to send.

261.5e Portobello Beach Coordinating Group Stephen Hawkins reported that Lawrence Marshall has been invited to attend as Community Council representative.

261.5e Old notice board at Town Hall. Caroline has written to James Hunter.

262.6a Proposed closure of Portobello CAB: Robert Gatliff has written to express the support of the Community Council for the Portobello CAB.

262.6b Lothian Buses - bus changes/service cuts: Carried Forward as unknown if Robert has written. **Action:** Robert Gatliff to write to express the Community Council's concerns about the proposed changes.

263.7 Skills Audit Diana has re-presented the document which David Turner produced, and has given it to 5 people to test. The final survey document will be available in January on the internet and in paper form for Community Council members, and others, to complete. **Action:** Diana Cairns

263.8 Portobello Reporter and Community Engagement Caroline has written an article on the Community Council's work for the next edition. Peter McColl is to write a 300 word summary for the March 09 edition. **Action:** Peter McColl

263.9d Portobello On-Line representation Diana has emailed Eileen Hewitt, who advised there has to be a minimum of 8 elected representatives, but the Community Council can continue until the next elections without filling all the places for nominated members.

263.9f Environment update: Caroline had contacted James but had not at the time of the meeting received an Environmental Report. A report had been sent but not opened on the day of the meeting and is included in the Reports below.

264. 4 Agree AOCB

Topics agreed: a) Roundabout b) PEDAL c) Boozebuster Sign d) Use of Baptist Church premises

264.5 Plans for the former Funpark Site, Portobello Promenade

This item had been placed on the Agenda because a Planning Application may be made before the Community Council has another scheduled meeting. The proposals submitted to our last meeting were discussed, and the following concerns added to those raised at the previous meeting:

Effect on Kilns and that the Architects had not been made aware by Planning Officers of a Council Report on the future of the Kilns; Scale, Height and Design of the proposals is unacceptable for the area, and does not conform to the NW Portobello Development

Brief; lack of inclusion of affordable housing; concern that the Plan will be put forward over the festive period, despite the Community Council pointing out that it is very difficult for individuals and the Community Council, to respond at this period; concern about underground car parking, given its proximity to the sea, which comes over the Promenade at least twice a month, and that the site is in a SEPA identified flood risk area; concern that the East 'wing' of the proposal at Pipe Street extends into existing public green space and effect on nearby housing; concern that the West 'wing' of the proposal may extend onto public recreational space of the Square at Bridge Street which the community is anxious to retain; concern that the loss of these two public areas is not compensated for by a piece of land so close to private housing; concern that the Kilns public space becomes 'semi private' by being so close to such high mass of private housing/private gardens; Archaeology – concerned that the official archaeologist's position on this should be obtained as we are not convinced there is 'nothing worth preserving', as we were advised by the Architects/their Client; Visibility of the Kilns – the Development Brief indicates the setting should be improved and visibility increased, whereas this proposal does not do these things.

The Kilns Working Group has met with the Architects and raised issues regarding the Kilns, including making them aware of the Council Report on the Kilns. The Working Group has also made City Development Department of the Council aware of the potential planning application.

They understand the Architects are reviewing their Plans in light of the Community Council's comments, but that their Client is keen to bring the Application forward as soon as possible. The idea of putting the plans in Portobello Library is to be discussed by the Architects with their Client. It was agreed to write to them suggesting doing this, providing there is adequate explanation e.g. building heights etc, and including a comments box.

It was noted that the Architects had written their own notes of our last meeting and that Diana Cairns, as Secretary, had compiled a contemporaneous note of our meeting, which had been sent to the Architects. Caroline and Diana expressed concern that the Architects' notes did not reflect the meeting's concerns, and gave far too positive account of the Community Council's responses, and this has been communicated to them.

It was agreed that John Stewart will draft a response, based on the concerns mentioned above, and in the previous meeting's Minutes, to the expected Planning Application. He will circulate this via Caroline as this month's Secretary, to the Community Council, for comments prior to sending in our official response.

Action: Caroline to send these Draft Minutes to the Architects ; Diana to send her notes of the previous meeting to John Stewart; Caroline to summarise the issues she has taken from the Development Brief relating to this site, to John Stewart; John to write draft and final response to the expected Planning Application, with C Councillors comments.

264.6 Secretary's Role

Diana and Caroline are currently sharing the Secretary role and finding the writing of Minutes very time consuming, and effectively prevents one of them taking part in the Meeting. Both suggested that funds be put aside for buying in Minute taking/typing assistance. Eileen Hewitt has indicated that this is an acceptable use of a Community Council grant, and it is up to each Community Council how much they want to spend on this.

There was discussion as to how much of the current grant of £700 pa is required to pay for ongoing expenses, which includes £12.50 per meeting for rent of the hall. Other expenses are setting aside £100 pa for the election it was suggested. Other funds are ring fenced - £600 for Golden Days; £950 for Christmas Lights; £421 for POL. There was discussion of a possible cost, and how to find someone prepared to do this.

It was agreed that everyone would think about this, including anyone who may assist with Minute Taking, for the next meeting. **Action:** all members.

264.7 Suggested additional meeting of CC in July

This suggestion was from Celia Butterworth, who was unable to be present, but who had suggested an additional meeting in July as a way of getting through the extra work of the Community Council. The general feeling was that the difficulty is in having enough people to take on work, rather than to come to meetings. Although useful for Planning Applications/issues coming up at that time, it was agreed that this work can be covered by email/writing to Community Councillors. It was therefore agreed not to have a meeting in July.

264.8 Reports

264.8a Police: No report

264.8b Treasurer: Kathleen reported that the Treasurer's a/c stands at £3134.56 and Joppa tennis courts at £8451.30.

264.8c Neighbourhood Partnership: Peter and others reported:

-The Local Community Plan Draft is available on-line. It was suggested a paper copy should be placed in the Library. **Action:** Peter/Stephen Hawkins

-North Edinburgh Transport Plan –disappointment was expressed that this did not include additional rail use, although as it is out with our Community Council boundary it is difficult for us to influence this.

-The Partnership is developing a range of Sub Groups e.g. on Environment, Health & Community Care, and information will be circulated to the Community Council to encourage members and residents to get involved. Caroline said she, Maureen and one

other person from Portobello had attended the Environment Bus visit to see road and pavement repairs needing to be carried out in Portobello and Craigmillar. These will now be prioritised for funding, so it is important that more people from Portobello take part. There will be a meeting on December 3rd to set up an Environment Forum for the NP area, to which anyone interested is invited.

-Margaret Munro suggested having a regular article in Portobello Reporter on the Neighbourhood Partnership, to encourage people to understand it better and hopefully more people will feel it would be useful to take part. **Action:** Peter

264.8d Edinburgh Association of Community Councils: Dawson regularly attends meetings every two months, on a range of issues. The next one is on 6th December.

264.8e Portobello Online No report. Marya said there is a new management group, consisting of herself, Bob Jefferson and Paul Butler (who concentrates on technical issues). POL is still a Sub Committee of the Community Council.

264.8f Environmental Update: James Hunter sent in a report:

1. Arrangements made to remove the old notice board from the Town Hall and James confirmed that his colleague Sarah Bryson has a contractor in place to carry out repairs to the 3 black notice boards in Portobello. No timescale available at present.
2. The dumped bricks have been cleared from the Beach area.
3. The first Portobello / Craigmillar Environment Forum met on Saturday 15th November and focused on viewing potential road improvement projects across the East Neighbourhood. A sum of £100,000 has been made available to the group to influence and prioritize expenditure in this area. A follow up meeting is to be held on 3rd Dec. at 7pm, The Hays Business Centre (alongside the Area Board meeting) to begin the project selection. The Environment Forum will aim to cover Task Force work (grounds maintenance & street cleaning issues, parks and roads) and is a sub group to the Portobello / Craigmillar Partnership.
4. Padlocks - The Prom (King's Road) - these should be fitted this week as soon as keys have been provided to various parties (Parks & Task Force). At present vehicles can not enter the Prom from this side (King's Road west side) as there are concrete cubes in place. The Roads team is working to replace the gate at this location with a better locking system and allow authorized vehicles only to enter. The aim is to have this in place by mid to late Jan 09.
5. Joppa Plantings: A planting design has been prepared for this site and it is planned to carry out planting in the next couple of months. Portobello Amenity Society has been appraised of the final proposal.

264.8g Planning: John Stewart reported:

- 1) The HMO Licence application for 6 John Street has been granted for 6 months. It will be monitored with monthly visits. The applicant had stressed there will be two people on

3 shifts to improve management. It will be important for residents to monitor and raise issues with factual evidence of any problems.

The HMO Licence does not control who is placed in the property. Questions were raised about its status of registration with the Care Commission, and whether it can be referred to the Health and Social Care Committee of the Council. A further question was raised about the use of the basement.

2) Forthview Bar application for an extension – Maureen Child said this is likely to come before the Planning Committee, given the number of objections there appear to be.

264.8h Signs, Plaques and Coade Stone Pillars John reported that the horizon board at Kings Rd needs to be repaired. Celia is discussing its' replacement with the insurance company, and quotes and details of the repair work necessary are in the process of being sought.

264.i Portobello High School: No report

264.j Joppa Tennis Courts: No report

264.8k Portobello Traders: No report. Sheila Scott is still the representative until she manages to get another trader to represent the Portobello Merchants and Hoteliers Assn.

264.8l Portobello Community Centre: Meetings of the Management Committee are on the second Monday of the month, and the next one is a Christmas one.

264.8m Community development planning: No report.

264.8n Communicating with communities: No report

264.8o Councillors: Cllrs Maureen Child and Stephen Hawkins circulated paper reports. Cllr Mike Bridgman gave a verbal report. Issues: Recycling - The Council has money for an extra 200 recycling bins and would welcome suggestions as to where these should be sited. One suggestion was Straiton Place (pedestrian lane off). Roundabout: all expressed their concerns that a possible completion date is March 09, and the effects on trader's. Stephen is putting a motion to Council asking for support for the Traders. The meeting supported asking for compensation for the traders' loss of business, which is severely affected by the Roundabout works.

264.9 Any Other Competent Business

1) PEDAL- Peter McColl reported that PEDAL has been given £48,000 from the Climate Challenge Fund for a survey of energy use, transport and insulation. This was welcomed and PEDAL was congratulated on their work to date.

2) Sign – Boozebuster. Celia had wished to raise this, suggesting that the Community Council should give an official response to the removal of the sign. It was felt that the time had passed when a response would be helpful. John Stewart had tried to contact the Evening News on the day they were looking for a quote but had been unable to get hold of the reporter concerned.

3) Use of Baptist Church premises. Margaret Munro said she had had a telephone call from a member of their congregation regarding the Church intending to start a drop in for people with alcohol and drug problems. She reported this for information.

264.10 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.

The next meeting is on: 26th January 2009 (no meeting in December)

Subsequent dates are: 23rd February 2009

 30th March 2009

 27th April 2009