



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 263rd meeting held on 27th October 2008 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Archie Burns (PPAG), Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns (PCATS), Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Kathleen Hart (Treasurer), Caroline Hosking, James Hunter (CEC), 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: Robert Gatliff (Chair), Sheila Scott (Merchants & Hoteliers), Tom Nimmo (Brightons Residents).

In attendance: Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Stephen Hawkins, Hazel Bett, George Codona, Mr and Mrs T & L Graham, Kenny MacAskill, MSP, Margaret O'Neill, Ian Campbell, Anne Ward, A Foley, M Brown, John Lau, Mike Robb, Phil Morris, A Robinson, Jan Herman, Melvyn Strand.

263.1 Chair's welcome

Vice Chair Margaret Munro welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced the resignation of Bob Jefferson from the Community Council for personal reasons. The meeting registered its thanks to Bob for the work he has done during his time on the Community Council.

263.2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The acceptance of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Margaret Smith and seconded by Kathleen Hart.

263.3 Matters arising including some items carried over from previous meetings

261.1 It is unclear whether the letter of thanks to Nick Stroud has been sent by Robert Gatliff yet.

261.4c Project funding by Neighbourhood Partnership (Minute 260.7c): 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.

261.4g It is unclear whether Nick Stroud has yet completed the summary of matters arising from April, May and June.

261.5e Jet ski exclusion zone working group. The remit of this group is actually wider and concerns the management of the area at the foot of King's Road, including the Promenade and beach. There was meeting on 22 October and further one planned for 25 November that Cllr Hawkins will be attending but there were no volunteers to attend from the community council. It was suggested that an appropriate attendee might be Lawrence Marshall as he is resident in the area.

Action: Cllr Hawkins to ask James Hunter to invite Lawrence Marshall to attend.

261.5e Old notice board at Town Hall. Tom Smith has told James Hunter that this is not required any more. Caroline to mention it when she writes to James Hunter.

262.4 Topics for future meetings. Robert Gatliff has written to Save Meadowbank Campaign and the Council saying they are welcome to attend a meeting to speak only if there is something new to say on the subject.

262.5c Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. Caroline Hosking, Sheila Scott and John Stewart had attended the meeting on town centres and local high streets, John Stewart gave a summary of the meeting which was attended by representatives of several other community councils. Subjects discussed included: the threat from and effect of supermarkets, the lack of enforcement of planning breaches. The experiences discussed at the meeting will be reported back to the Scottish Government.

262.5d Environmental update: Caroline had circulated an e-mail copy of James Hunter's report and stated that paper copies were available as well.

Of particular concern was the replacement of the King's Road roundabout and the closure of the west end of the High Street and diversion of buses around Fishwives Causeway. Not everyone had received a copy of the letter about the road closure and Cllr Hawkins confirmed that 10,000 leaflets had been delivered but that there had been glitches in the distribution. The council hopes to have the work completed before Christmas and the temporary traffic lights and electrical supply should be in place by the end of the week. [Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the diversion will start on Saturday 15 November.] Frustration was expressed about the lack of co-ordination of the roadworks in Edinburgh and the Chair asked the three councillors to pass on the community council's comments to the council.

There was concern about the potential loss of business to traders. Cllr Hawkins said he had asked Tom Buchanan, councillor responsible for Economic Development, for a package of measures to help boost local traders in Portobello. He echoed Cllr Child's encouragement for all residents to try and support the local traders as much as possible during this difficult period.

One of the traders had suggested that A3 posters would be helpful to show the diversion and emphasise that the whole the High Street was not going to be closed. Cllr Hawkins said he would pursue this as well as leaflets about the closure for the shops. He had also mentioned to the council the lack of pedestrian crossings at the roundabout. Dawson Currie lamented the poor quality of the work which had resulted in a lamppost being relocated from the pavement into the road.

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: Action: Robert Gatliff to write to express the Community Council's concerns about the proposed changes.

263. 4 Agree AOCB

Topics agreed: a) PEDAL survey b) Consultation on Scotrail Franchise c) Sovereign House event d) Odour improvement Plan Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works.

263.5 Presentation by Hackland and Dore Architects Ltd for Kiln Developments on their emerging proposal for the Funpark site on Portobello Promenade (foot of Bridge St/Figgate Burn).

The presentation of the proposals was made by Alastair Hackland, MD of Hackland and Dore Architects Development. The architects are representing Kilns Developments and have already had some discussion with the Council Planning dept. The development will be a joint venture between Melvyn Strand and Danny Teague of Teague Developments.

The main features of the proposed development are: widening the Promenade by 2m to reduce shadowing; private terraces for ground floor flats; a two-level arcade at ground and basement level, with cafe and retail space and housing on top; possible information point; access from the Promenade to the kilns via an opening in the development; public space looking onto the kilns; underground car parking with one space per flat.

The heights proposed are 3 storey rising to 5/6 storeys at with end of the development and the accommodation will be a mix of 2/3 bed flats. The materials proposed are brick; or brick and render; or stone at the ends with render in the middle; or all white to create a 1930s feel. The roof will have a shallow pitch and will have solar panels.

Concerns/comments /questions included: ground testing; possible effect on the kilns; the possibility of a museum; lack of a clear view of the kilns from the Promenade; building heights not conforming with the NW Portobello Masterplan (the higher flats would be half a story higher than those at Promenade Terr); lack of social housing (the architects claim that there is no requirement for the them to include social housing, although they said that some of the housing would be priced at an affordable level.); loss of public space around the kilns; building on public land; waves washing over the Promenade and into the car park; fenestration; loss of views from Bridge St and Seafield; flood risks; archaeological remains. [A more comprehensive note of the meeting has been written up and can be circulated to those interested.]

The developers agreed to have a meeting specifically to discuss the possible impact on the kilns.

The vice-chair asked the developers if they would amend their plans based on the feedback they had received but they said they were aiming to submit their plans before the end of the year which does not leave much time for amendments.

* **Action:** any further questions about the proposed development to be sent to Caroline who will pass them on to the developers for a reply.

263.6 Topics for future meetings

We agreed to have no presentations at the next meeting. As it will be the “festive” meeting, Margaret Smith and Kathleen Hart kindly agreed to organise the catering and Tom Smith said he would organise the wine.

263.7 Skills Audit of Community Council

David Turner had produced a list of possible skills, knowledge and experience for community council members with a view to compiling a list of what each member has to offer the community council.

Dawson Currie expressed concern over how holding such a list would sit with the Data Protection Act. Cllr Hawkins said that as long as people are informed why the list is being held, there should be no problems.

Action: Diana Cairns and Archie Burns to do some work on this before the next meeting. Archie offered to set up an internet survey for all members of the community council (and paper copies for those who need them) to record the data. We agreed we could ask new members to complete the audit when they join. We agreed that the object of the exercise was to record skills that people are willing to use in the service of the Community Council.

263.8 Portobello Reporter and community engagement

Margaret Munro suggested that by including a 300 word summary of the Community Council's activities in each issue of the Portobello Reporter (i.e. quarterly) it would keep the residents of Portobello informed about our work and possibly encourage new people to join at the next election. Caroline Hosking will do the summary in time for the next copy date of 7 November, Peter McColl to complete the summary for the March 2009 edition. We agreed that this should be shared around members.

263.9 Reports

263.9a Police: No report

263.9b Treasurer: Kathleen reported that the Treasurer's a/c stands at £3362.97 and Joppa tennis courts at £8541.30.

263.9c Neighbourhood Partnership: The neighbourhood Alliance had organised a networking event for Monday 3 November at 7 pm to allow activists from Portobello and Craigmillar to network.

The next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting is at 7 pm on 12 November at St Mark's Church. There was a funding panel meeting in October at which money was allocated from the Fairer Scotland fund to a range of projects.

263.9d Edinburgh Association of Community Councils: There were no volunteers to attend the EACC Conference on 22 November.

263.9e Portobello Online

The management committee will be dissolved and a new management committee will be set up. The members will be Paul Butler, Maria Devoy and Bob Jefferson,

As Bob Jefferson has resigned, Maria Devoy will report on Portobello Online's activities.

Action: Diana Cairns to clarify the situation with Eileen Hewitt regarding there being no official representative of Portobello Online on the Community Council.

263.9f Environmental Update: There were a number of issues to be taken up, e.g. the gates on the Promenade at King's Road; the dumping of bricks on the beach by the Council following the construction of a new wall by the Forthview bar. There was a question about responsibility for fencing along Windsor Place and it was clarified that this will be repaired when Sustrans take ownership of Christian Path.

Action: Caroline Hosking will contact James Hunter.

263.9g Planning: John Stewart reported that he had objected to an application for a three bedroom extension at 1 Duddingston Crescent on the grounds of overdevelopment. There is an application to build a house in the grounds of 9A Joppa Park. PAS has no strong feelings about it so will not object.

The Forthview Bar at King's Place has applied for permission to build a massive extension of 130% the size of the existing premises. The main concerns are traffic, parking, noise nuisance, overshadowing of neighbouring properties and use of inappropriate materials which will be out of keeping with the area. The closing date for objections is 7 November. John Stewart will object on behalf of the community council and another PAS member will object on their behalf. John encouraged as many community council members to object individually as possible.

263.9h Signs, Plaques and Coade stone pillars: Celia Butterworth had circulated a report prior to the meeting. John Stewart proposed a vote of thanks to Celia for her excellent efforts in organising the restoration of the Coade stone pillars and was supported in this by the rest of the meeting.

263.9i Portobello High School: No report

263.9j Joppa Tennis Courts: Hazel Bett came along to give a report, which was circulated round the meeting.

263.9k Portobello Traders: No report.

263.9l Community Centre: The next meeting of the management committee will take place on 11 November at 7 pm.

263.9m Community development planning: No report.

263.9n Communicating with communities: Dawson has had a meeting about this, which is continuing.

263.9o Councillors: Cllrs Child and Hawkins circulated paper reports. Cllr Bridgman gave a verbal report and reminded members that his surgery is on the second Monday of the month in the library at 6.30 pm.

263.10 Any Other Competent Business

PEDAL survey: Caroline Hosking had a completed one which had been sent to her but Peter McColl said that the report following the consultation on a new social space for Portobello had been completed.

Consultation on the extension of the Scotrail Franchise: Lawrence Marshall had suggested some input to the consultation on the Scotrail franchise and Robert Gatliff had added some additional points, i.e. Sunday services to Newcraighall; support for the line to the Borders; re-opening Portobello station; re-open south suburban line; considering the development of the old yard as a new Edinburgh station for trains to London (a kind of Edinburgh Parkway). **Action:** Caroline Hosking to submit to points to consultation.

Sovereign House event: There was to be a public meeting with the developers of the Sovereign Hose site on Friday 31 October, from 6-7 pm at the Kings Manor Hotel.

Odour improvement Plan Seafeld Waste Water Treatment Works: A report had been circulated about how it is proposed to deal with the smell at this site. Kenny MacAskill MSP also notes that a site meeting was to take place on Friday 31 October at 10,30 am which community council members were welcome to attend.

Caroline Hosking had leaflets about the community council and its work for distribution to anyone who was interested in joining. These will be made available in the library. Caroline also noted that she had placed a folder in Portobello library with paper copies of community council documents.

263.11 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: 24th November 2008

Subsequent dates are: 26th January 2009 (no meeting in December)
23rd February 2009
23rd March 2009