



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 302nd meeting held on 24th September 2012 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Archie Burns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Ben McLeish (Gilberstoun Residents), Joe Madden (Portobello Open Door), Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), Andrew Patterson (Council of Churches), Leon Thompson, David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council), Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association).

Apologies: Tom Ballantine, Sandra Blake, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Sheila Gilmore MP, Caroline Hosking, Mandy Lawson (PEDAL), Kenny MacAskill MSP, Lawrence Marshall (Portobello Older Peoples' Project), Katie Quinn.

In attendance: Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker, John Young (Safer Neighbourhood Team), and members of the public.

302.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

302.2 Police Report

John Young presented his report (see appended).

302.3 Environment update

Katie Quinn couldn't attend the meeting but had sent the Environmental Report (see appended). Nick Stroud raised three issues.

- When would the 'Welcome to Edinburgh' sign at Eastfield be reinstated? Cllr Child advised that this matter was in hand and the sign was due to be back in place soon.
- Was the otter that had taken up residence in Figgate Pond a threat to other wildlife?
- Could COEC report back on the recycling figures for the Portobello area, and whether any recycling material was sent for incineration instead?

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

302.4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

John Stewart noted that 'street' should be added to item 301.13c. With this change the minutes of the meeting were approved: proposed by Nick Stroud, seconded by Anne Ward.

302.5 Matters arising

302.5a Sainsburys (301.4). Tom Ballantine had received clarification from Woodwares on the situation. A binding contract was in place for Sainsburys to lease the premises. There had been a considerable drop in footfall over the last 10 years and it was felt the business was only viable with full time management. It was also felt that any replacement hardware store would require a similar size of premises and range of stock to be viable. John Stewart had contacted Sarah Woodford and had circulated her reply. She confirmed that her role was to support all businesses in Portobello, that any future campaigns would be aimed at supporting the whole community, and that she wasn't in a position to comment on the Sainsbury's proposals.

302.5b Fingerposts (301.5). A meeting to inspect the fingerposts had been arranged for Thursday 27th September. Celia Butterworth, Nick Stroud, Clive Andrew and John Stewart expected to be in attendance.

✿ **Action: Inspection of fingerposts to be undertaken.**

302.5c Planting in Rosefield Park (301.7b). It was not known if Peter McColl had received a response from the Neighbourhood Partnership.

302.5d Noise from football pitches (301.7c). It was not known if Robert Gatliff had been able to contact the neighbours to see if the problem was ongoing.

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

302.5e Community Council Survey group (301.7e). Sean Watters had circulated details of the Twitter feeds.

✿ **Action: Twitter accounts to be discussed at the October meeting.**

302.5f Agree AOB (301.8). The electronic document relating to an FOI request by Archie Burns had been circulated, but John Stewart felt it was not an appropriate item for the Community Council to discuss.

302.5g Community Engagement and Renewal Bill (301.9). A draft had been circulated and was to be discussed later in the agenda. Sean Watters had been sent some further information from the Planning Department regarding consultation and 'Hard to Reach' groups and would circulate it. The National Standards for Community Engagement would be a discussed at a future meeting.

- ✿ **Action: Sean Watters to circulate information on consultation and 'Hard to Reach' groups.**
- ✿ **Action: National Standards for Community Engagement to be discussed at a future meeting.**

302.5h Straiton Park (301.10). Sean Watters had circulated draft comments on the play area, forwarded them to James Galloway at COEC, and the reply had also been circulated.

302.5i Donation to Portobello Older Peoples Project (301.12). It was agreed to donate £100 towards the project.

✿ **Action: £100 donation to be arranged.**

302.5j Planning (301.13c). The letter regarding 11 Rosefield Street had been circulated and sent.

302.5k East Coast Main Line (301.14b). An e-mail had been sent to ECML regarding residents concerns and the need to consult more widely.

302.5l Older Person's Information Event (301.14c). Information had been circulated regarding the event.

302.6 Agree AOB

The following items for discussion under AOB were agreed; the telephone kiosk, the Christmas lights, the PCC web-site and Old Parish Church Art exhibition.

302.7 Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill

A draft response prepared by Sandra Blake had been circulated and was discussed. Archie Burns suggested a change of wording and any further comments were required the next day, as the deadline was Wednesday 26th September.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to submit the response to the consultation.**

302.8 Transport

Nick Stroud had asked for Transport to be on the agenda as he felt it was a significant issue for Portobello and that transport problems had worsened over the years. There was a long discussion about various transport aspects, and it was agreed to investigate particular matters further, with the following actions agreed.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to contact Sarah Woodford regarding the re-branding of the 26 buses.**
- ◆ **Action: Nick Stroud to investigate with the Tour Bus operators the possibility of including Portobello in tours, or stocking promotional material.**
- ◆ **Action: Ben McLeish to follow up with LRT on opportunities to promote our seaside.**

302.9 Community Council Questionnaire

It was agreed not to submit a response from the Community Council itself, but instead encourage responses from individual Community Councillors, the dead line for submissions being October 1st. It was noted that there would be further public consultation on any proposed changes to the Community Council scheme.

302.10 Reports

302.10a Treasurer: Leon Thompson reported that the grant of £852.68 had been received, the Boards & Plaques account had been closed, and once the hire for the table at the Village Show had been paid the balance in the account would stand at £2,228.09. Leon Thompson suggested that consideration be given to what the purpose of the money was and what to do with the funds that have accrued. It was suggested that the funds could enable more consultation and communication with the community. Dawson Currie also noted that the hire for the hall had remain unchanged in years and it was agreed that it might be time suggest an increase in the rent.

- ◆ **Action: Leon Thompson to look into an increase in rent for the hall.**

302.10b Neighbourhood Partnership: The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership would be at Portobello High School, Thursday November 29th, 6:30pm.

302.10c Planning: John Stewart reported on the planning applications relating to the Sainsbury's proposal. It was noted that the applications related to physical changes to the premises as there was no change in class, and relevant considerations related mainly to materials and appearance. It was highlighted that Sainsbury's had a 'Heritage Design' for shop fronts that was often used in Conservation Areas, but this was not what was proposed here. It was agreed that a 'Heritage Design' would be preferred and to object to the current proposals on that basis.

- ◆ **Action: John Stewart to circulate a draft response.**

302.10d Signs & plaques: Nothing to report.

302.10e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next management meeting would be on Tuesday 9th October.

302.10f Joppa Tennis Courts: No report.

302.10g Councillors: Cllr Child reported that the application to change the licensing hours for the Central Bar from 09:00-01:00hrs to 07:00-23:00hrs had been refused, although the issue could return in the future. Cllr Bridgman noted that it had been a busy time with the restructuring of committees, and that education matters had recently been to the fore. Cllr Walker advised that the changes to bin collections had caused considerable problems and that he would continue to press officials on this.

302.11 AOB

302.11a Telephone Kiosk: John Stewart reported that the new door and been fitted and that locks were being investigated. It was agreed that PCC would pay for the locks. It was also noted that St Mark's Church was keen to be involved in looking at how to use the kiosk.

302.11b Christmas Lights: Dawson Currie raised the questions of were better lights were available and whether there might be a turning on ceremony. Dawson Currie agreed to contact COEC regarding the lights and Joe Madden agreed to talk to the POD committee about whether they might be interested in an opening event.

- ◆ **Action: Dawson Currie to contact COEC regarding the lights.**
- ◆ **Action: Joe Madden to ask POD about the possibility of an opening event.**

302.11c Web-Site: Joe Madden reported that minutes and correspondence for PCC were now located on Google Drive and could be accessed via the web-site.

302.11d Old Parish Church Art exhibition: Andrew Patterson informed PCC of an art exhibition at the Old Parish Church running for three weeks, in conjunction with the Book Festival, culminating in a concert on Saturday 20th October.

302.12 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 29th October 2012 (303)

Subsequent dates are: 26th November 2012 (304)
28th January 2013 (305: no meeting in December)
25th February 2013 (306)

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

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Environmental Report – September 2012-10-08

Food Waste Bin - Portobello High Street

Waste Services have contacted Caroline Hosking about the damaged/ overflowing bin. The lock is to be repaired and the bin to be emptied. Recycling Advisors will also visit nearby properties to ensure that local residents know that this bin is for food waste only. Caroline has asked for the bins to be tethered to the ground and the Waste Team will be getting back to her about this.

Weeds around Town Hall

The weeds behind the building have now been cleared (as of 7 September), apologies for the delay with completing this request.

Potholes at Bus Stop on High Street

As reported to Caroline Hosking, the Roads Team are aiming for these to be repaired the weekend of 22 and 23 September.

New East Neighbourhood Office and Craigmillar Library

East Neighbourhood staff will be moving into new premises at the end of 2012. The new office is directly over the road from the current building on Niddrie Mains Road, and will incorporate Craigmillar Library as well as other neighbourhood services. The current Craigmillar Library building will be closing on 29 September; and a library bus will be providing the service from 1 October until the office officially opens.

Joppa Bandstand Maintenance

The refurbishment work on the bandstand and surrounding area will begin on Friday 21 September, which includes repainting the bandstand/ bollards and paving over the empty planting spaces.

Twitter 24

Edinburgh Council participated in the nationwide Twitter 24 event on 18/ 19 September. A variety of Council services including Neighbourhood Teams, Planning and Edinburgh Travel News all took part in broadcasting information about local events and services for 24 hours. If you are interested in following the East Neighbourhood Team, we can be found on Twitter: @east_team.

Finger Posts

I and a colleague from the Roads Team will be meeting with Celia Butterworth on 27 September to discuss damaged finger posts on Portobello Prom. Arrangements will then be made to repair/ replace any signs as necessary.

Signage on Portobello Prom

The new signage regarding cyclist access is still with our sign maker and should be installed the week commencing 1 October.

James Street Pavements

The Roads Team are still waiting to hear about the availability of their contractor to repair these pavements. We will give you another update as soon as possible.

Rosefield Park

Work has now started on the games area in Rosefield Park, which should be completed in 7 - 8 weeks.

I am on holiday on the day of the meeting, but if there is anything else I can help with prior to then, please let me know.

Best Wishes

Katie

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