

Portobello Amenity Society Chairman's Report June 2007

- The main event in the past year was the erection of the three Coade stone pillars in September in the Community Garden. An information board, detailing their history has now been erected and a top is being made by a PAS member for the middle pillar. PAS took part in the Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Open Day in May to publicise the pillars and a talk is being organised in November on the pillars' history and restoration.
- This year we monitored 112 planning applications for the Portobello area and wrote objecting to 30. Many of our objections related to inappropriate shop fronts and extensions.
- PAS also responded to the public consultation concerning the N.W. Portobello Masterplan, the design brief for the Fun City site, the New Edinburgh City Local Plan, the redevelopment of Jewel & Esk College, and the redevelopment of Meadowbank Stadium and Portobello High School.
- PAS has also had continuing dialogue with the Council regarding the Portobello Town Centre Improvements, the Figgate Burn flood prevention measures, road signage, shopfront paint colours and HMO applications.
- PAS continues to be represented at meetings of Portobello Community Council, the Edinburgh Civic Forum, and the LDC. We hold regular meetings with the Council's Task Force officials at which we have raised various issues such as graffiti, litter bin provision and street cleaning.
- We have deliberately carried out fewer planting projects this year. The Town Centre Improvements have meant that our hanging baskets had to be removed and they have not yet been replaced by the Council. We have not planted our usual number of bulbs in local parks as the Council did not let our previous bulbs die back before cutting the grass and so we are monitoring to see the effects of this on next year's bulb growth. We have however replanted the Joppa Kids planters on the Promenade.
- We continue to hold regular monthly meetings to which all members of the public are welcome.