



# PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **DRAFT Minutes of the 316<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

**Present:** Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Bob Jefferson, Saul Kenrick (Woodcraft), Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, David Medcalf, Ben McLeish, Thea McMillan, Sean Watters, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Eva Schonfeld (PEDAL), Clare Slifer.

**Apologies:** Max Blinkhorn, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Terry Dobson (Gilberstoun Residents' Association), Cllr Michael Bridgman.

**In attendance:** Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr David Walker, Cameron Buchanan MSP, Sgt John Young (Police), Graham Rowan (COEC) and members of the public.

### **316.1 Chair's Welcome**

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that grants up to £3,000 were available through the City of Edinburgh Council's Activity Funding Programme for events that promote physical activity and sport within the city, that COEC were consulting on possible changes to their Parks Events Manifesto, and that the consultation on a pedestrian crossing at St Philips was ongoing. More information was available on the PCC web-site.

### **316.2 Police Report**

Sergeant John Young gave a detailed Police Report (see appended).

### **316.3 Environment Report**

No report.

### **316.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes were agreed.

**316.4a** Power supply to Prom events (315.8d): The issue had been raised with COEC and Scott Thompson and Andy Matheson were looking at possible options.

**316.4b** Richard Demarco (315.8i): Agenda item.

**316.4c** Edinburgh Festival event (315:10): Awaiting further information from the artist.

### **✿ Action: Awaiting further information.**

**316.4d** Signs & plaques (315.11d): Agenda item.

### **316.5 COEC Planning Concordat**

The PCC had been asked to sign up to the COEC Planning Concordat, setting out the roles and responsibilities of parties when it came to major planning applications. It was agreed to carry the item over to the next meeting to allow more time for people to familiarise themselves with the document.

- ✿ **Action: Agenda item for the March meeting.**

### **316.6 Signs & Plaques**

Gillian Eunson and Geoff Lynn had met with Celia Butterworth and Alison Robinson to discuss the Signs & Plaques committee. It had been decided that the group would continue its good work but would no longer be a sub-committee of the PCC. The PCC and the Signs & Plaques group would continue to work together on items of common interest and Gillian Eunson would be attending Signs & Plaques meetings to ensure an ongoing relationship. The Chair thanked the Signs & Plaques group for all their work to date and looked forward to it continuing.

### **316.7 Consultation up-date**

Lee Kindness had put a document together outlining the requirements of the constitution, scheme and standing orders as regards sub-committees, and noting the need for meetings of sub-committees to be notified in advance and be open to the public. It was agreed that the consultation group be a formal sub-committee, given the ongoing importance of engaging with the community. Whilst other groups may require to be formed to take particular issues forward, it was felt that in most instances creating a formal sub-committee would not be necessary. Lee Kindness, Gillian Eunson, Thea Macmillan, David Medcalf, Mark Cameron (as Chair) and Emma Dempsey (as Vice-Chair) all agreed to be on the Consultation Sub-Committee.

The PCC had operated a stall in Scotmid for 2 hours on a Saturday and had spoken to over 100 people with many signing up to PCC e-mail list. People were very positive about Portobello, the sense of community, the parks, the Prom, and the area in general. Amongst issues raised were litter, traffic and parking, lack of things for teenagers to do, more use of the Prom, the importance of local shops, a new Portobello High School, and other matters. A report about what people had said could be found on the PCC web-site.

### **316.8 Richard Demarco**

Brian Cosford had met with Richard Demarco about a possible event and the idea emerging was for a Portobello Lecture accompanied by an exhibition, possibly in the Library. It was agreed to look at the practicalities and firm up a proposal. Ben McLeish and Maria Devoy agreed to work with Brian Cosford on this.

- ✿ **Action: Proposal to be developed.**

### **316.9 Dogs and the Beach**

Concerns had been raised about the control of dogs on the beach. Given the open access legislation, formal restrictions or controls would be difficult, but it was agreed to look at developing a convention on how the Beach was used in general, requiring a wider conversation with the community. David Medcalf, Claire Slifer, Peter Bradley and Bob Jefferson agreed to take the matter forward.

- ✿ **Action: Group to look at use of the beach.**

### **316.10 Cycling on the prom**

Concerns had been raised about instances of inappropriate cycling on the Prom and there was a discussion about how to promote use of what was now a shared space in a way that met the needs of different users.

Various suggestions were made including additional or temporary signs, speed calming measures, temporary gates at peak times, and the Police making spot checks to discourage unsafe behaviour. It was agreed to raise the matter with the Police and COEC's Access Officer to see if they had concerns and measures that might be available to manage problems.

- ✿ **Action: Raise the matter with the Police and COEC's Access Officer.**

### **316.11 Amalgamation of Churches**

A concern had been raised again about the prospect of the amalgamation of churches and the impact that might have on available facilities for community use. Sean Watters had contacted Stewart Weaver who had indicated that more information on what was happening would be available, possibly towards the end of March, but more likely the end of April, and he would be happy to come and speak to the PCC at that time. Peter Bradley offered to speak to Stewart Weaver in the meantime to get some background, and Claire Slifer offered to put together an audit of how the churches are currently used by which groups to gauge the possible impact.

- ✿ **Action: Peter Bradley to speak to Stewart Weaver and Claire Slifer to look at how the facilities are used at present.**

### **316.12 Portobello Station**

Lawrence Marshall explained that alterations were being made to the railway that could have implications for the feasibility of re-opening Portobello Station in the future. He was anxious to ensure that re-opening the station remained viable. It was agreed that Lawrence Marshall would draft a letter for the PCC to send to the appropriate authorities.

- ✿ **Action: Lawrence Marshall to draft and circulate a letter.**

### **316.13 Reports**

**316.13a Treasurer's Report:** Current balance stood at £2,334.82.

**316.13b Neighbourhood Partnership:** The next meeting was due to be held 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Neighbourhood grants fund had recently awarded £250 to St Philip's, £600 to the Wash House, and £552 to Portobello Sailing and Kayaking Club. Also £5,000 had been allocated for exercise/distance markers on the Prom and was due to be discussed at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Environment Forum. As Bob Jefferson had instigated the idea some years before he offered to attend and report back.

- ✿ **Action: Bob Jefferson to report back on distance markers.**

**316.13c Planning:** No report.

**316.13d Councillors:** Cllr Child had circulated her report. Cllr Walker reported that Fort Kinnaird had appealed the refusal of planning permission for the Debenhams store, 3 new licence applications had gone in for Fort Kinnaird food outlets, and there was a change in licence applied for Forrester's that was being reopened as more of a bistro.

Stephen Hawkins asked about the change to the timings of the lights at the main crossing on the High Street, and where things stood regarding the resurfacing of Brighton Place. Cllr Child advised that timing of the lights was still being tested and wasn't finalised yet. And comments or concerns could be sent direct to [ronnie.swain@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ronnie.swain@edinburgh.gov.uk). Cllr Child also advised that a further report and consultation on the Brighton Place was expected later in the year.

### 316.14 AOB

a) Diana Cairns asked if the PCC were planning any event or debate regarding the referendum. It was agreed some sort of event would be a good idea and Eva Schonfeld offered to look into it further.

#### ✿ **Action: Possibility of a referendum event to be investigated.**

b) Bob Jefferson reported on the setting up of a Positive Porty Traders group to promote Porty High Street and encourage people to shop locally.

### 316.15 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 (317)

Subsequent dates are: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (318)

26<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (319)

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

Portobello Community Council on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil)

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