



## DRAFT Minutes of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

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**Present:** Max Blinkhorn, Mark Cameron, Brian Cosford, Emma Dempsey, Maria Devoy, Stephen Dishon (Towerbank Parent Council), Gillian Eunson, Clare Slifer, Lee Kindness, Geoff Lynn, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Thea MacMillan, David Medcalf, Ben McLeish, Sean Watters.

**Apologies:** Peter Bradley (Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association), Bob Jefferson, Marjorie Thomas (Joppa Tennis Courts), Sheila Gilmour MP.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Mike Bridgman, Cllr David Walker, Cllr Maureen Child, Derek McGowan (COEC), Insp Murray Starkey (Police), Sgt John Young (Police), and members of the public.

### 323.1 Chair's Welcome

Geoff Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that it had been a year since the PCC elections and thanked all those on the PCC for their contribution over the period. He noted that construction of a new Portobello High School had started, something that many within the community would welcome. He also encouraged people to support the Portobello Christmas Street Fest, Thursday 4 December, 5pm-8pm.

### 323.2 Police Report

Sgt. John Young summarised the Police report (see appended). He noted that whilst the local area hadn't been included in the current SmartWater initiative (marking householders' goods with a uniquely coded solution to deter burglary) the product was available for purchase, although it was expensive. He also noted that there would be a significant police presence on Bonfire Night as usual. Insp. Murray Starkey also introduced himself and explained some of the policing priorities across the local area.

### 323.3 Environment Report

Derek McGowan introduced himself as acting Environment Manager for the East Team and gave a brief Environment report (see appended). He apologised that nobody from the Environment Team had been able to attend recent meetings but they would try to ensure representatives attend in future. A query was raised regarding the pilot on traffic restrictions around certain schools, but he confirmed that was being handled centrally. Sean Watters noted there were a few outstanding queries but that he would contact Derek about them directly.

**Action: Sean Watters to forward outstanding queries**

### 323.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

With minor corrections the minutes were agreed.

**323.4a** Community Spaces (322.5a): Agenda item.

**323.4b** Prom Markings (322.5b): Action under 323.3.

**323.4c** Parking and accessibility (322.5d): Action under 323.3.

**323.4d** Local Development Plan (322.6): response submitted.



**323.4e** Baileyfield Development (322.7): agenda item.

**323.4f** Brighton Place (322.10): Action under 323.3.

## **323.5 Baileyfield Development**

Geoff Lynn outlined the consultation exercise undertaken and the outcome. Over 400 responses had been received and whilst there were a few duplicates to remove and some paper responses to add, the provisional results were 50% in favour of the proposals overall, 40% against and 10% neutral [confirmed post-meeting as 49% for, 42% against, 9% neutral]. A small proportion of responses had come from outside the PCC area, as indicated in the consultation report, but as they made little difference they hadn't been separated out.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the consultation, the planning application itself, and how the PCC should respond. There was a view that the fact the consultation indicated more support than opposition was significant and was a fair reflection of opinion within the community, particularly a desire to see the site developed. However there was also sizeable opposition and many concerns raised were also shared by some who supported the proposals overall, the most common being: impact on traffic and congestion, the effect of an Aldi on High Street shops, and the effect of housing on local infrastructure (schools, Doctor's surgeries etc.) There was also a long discussion on the detailed design of the Aldi and whether the PCC should emphasise concerns about that, although it was also noted that it had not been a particularly prominent issue in the consultation responses. The large number of comments and suggestions received through the consultation were also noted, with the hope that these could be used to help shape and improve the final proposals in discussion with the developers.

After consideration it was decided that the PCC would comment on the proposals, with the response focused on the output of the consultation exercise.

**Action: Sean Watters to circulate a draft response and Lee Kindness to finalise the consultation report**

## **323.6 Community Spaces**

More work had been done with Callum MacDonald looking at community spaces available, a Google spreadsheet had been created, and the diaries of the church halls had also been shared. It was agreed that the next step should be to publicise the issue more widely, calling out for interest with a view to forming a group to look at community assets, management and ownership in more detail.

**Action: publicise the issue through PCC channels, posters in community spaces, halls etc.**

## **323.7 20mph Consultation**

Lee Kindness gave a brief outline of the responses to the 20mph consultation which were overwhelmingly positive about the proposals, although a few streets that had not been included were highlighted as possible additions.

## **323.8 November Social**

Geoff Lynn proposed and it was agreed that, instead of the usual November PCC social, the sum of money that would otherwise have been spent (in line with previous years) would be donated to the Portobello Basics food bank.

## **323.9 Other reports**

- a. Treasurer – the current balance stood at £2,522.89.



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- b. Neighbourhood Partnership – the next meeting would be at 6:30, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at the East Neighbourhood Office.
- c. Planning – minor applications only.
- d. Councillors – Cllr Child had circulated her report. Cllr Walker noted a suggestion for volleyball courts at Straiton Park had been put forward, and that Edinburgh City Basketball Club had proposed retaining the existing PHS sports halls when the school re-located. Cllr Bridgman noted that recently Edinburgh had been rated as one of the safest cities in the UK.

### 323.10 Any Other Business

**323.10a** Stephen Hawkins noted a recent meeting, and the formation of a new group, about fracking concerns.

**323.10b** Portobello Christmas Street Fest: Max Blinkhorn gave more details on the event and noted the turning on of the lights was expected between 6:00-6:20pm.

**323.10c** Geoff Lynn noted the St John's consultation meeting at the school on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### 323.11 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting (324) of the Portobello Community Council will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

Subsequent Dates are: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January (325)  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (326)

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*323rd PCC meeting closed.*