



PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 311th meeting held on 26th August 2013 in Portobello Baptist Church Hall

Present: Sandra Blake, Archie Burns, Celia Butterworth, Diana Cairns, Dawson Currie, Maria Devoy, Robert Gatliff (JTC) Caroline Hosking, Ben McLeish, Brenda Molony (Portobello Reporter), David Scott (Portobello Community Centre), John Stewart (Portobello Amenity Society), Nick Stroud, Ros Sutherland (PPAG), Anne Ward (PCATS), Sean Watters (Towerbank School Council).

Apologies: Tom Ballantine, Lawrence Marshall (POPP), Leon Thompson, Frances Wraith (Brightons & Rosefields Residents' Association), Cllr Michael Bridgman, Cllr David Walker, Kenny MacAskill MSP.

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Sheila Gilmour MP, Gillian Dunn, April McIntosh, Stephen Hawkins, Lee Kindness, Malcolm Bett, Alison Connelly, David Medcalfe, Dan Reynolds, Mark Cameron and other members of the public.

311.1 Chair's welcome

John Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

311.2 Police Report

No report.

311.3 Environment update

No update but Sean Watters reported on the issues raised at the last meeting.

- Work to rectify ponding problems was planned but there had been problems appointing a contractor. A new contractor was being appointed and the work should follow in due course.
- The Prom markings had been postponed with no date currently set for installation.
- The Neighbourhood Team would look into the condition of the Prom mosaics at Bridge Street and who had responsibility for any repairs. It was not though they would be affected by the adjacent flat development but this would also be checked.
- The sign pole on the Prom at the bottom of John Street was being looked into.
- Problems with the Bridge Street bins had not been resolved as input from Waste Services was required and a relevant Officer was not allocated. This was being pursued.

It was agreed that more clarification on these items would be welcome. In addition John Stewart raised queries about repairs to the fingerposts that had been initiated but not completed, and whether the Council would continue to maintain the window boxes at the Town Hall.

- **Action: Sean Watters to seek further clarification from the Environment Team on the above.**

311.4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of June meeting were approved: proposed by Sandra Blake, seconded by Ann Ward.

311.5 Matters arising

311.5a Alcohol Consultation (310.5a): Sean Watters to present proposals at the September meeting.

- ◆ **Action: To be discussed at the September meeting.**

311.5b Waste and Recycling (310.5b): The earliest date for the rearranged Waste presentation was October.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to rearrange the presentation on waste and recycling for October.**

311.5c Timebank (310.5c): Timebank presentation to be scheduled for September.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to arrange a presentation on Timebank for September.**

311.5d Local Plan (310.5d): Peter McColl had written a draft letter to Derek MacKay MSP regarding housing policy, which had been circulated. John Stewart had fed back comments to Peter for a final draft.

- ◆ **Action: Peter McColl to write to Derek MacKay MSP, incorporating comments received.**

311.5e AOB (310.6): A member of the public raised a concern about a change of address. Cllr Child agreed to look into the matter.

- ◆ **Action: Cllr Child to look into problems with a change of address.**

311.5f Christmas lights (310.7): Diana had contacted COEC regarding Christmas lights and was awaiting a response.

- ◆ **Action: Awaiting a response from COEC regarding Christmas Lights.**

311.5g Planning (310.8c): John Stewart had written in support of the Fort Kinnaird application. Diana Cairns had asked the planning department about the Leisure Centre application and had circulated the response that it was merely a formality as the proposal did not involve a change of use. John Stewart had asked Edinburgh Leisure for more information on the proposed changes to the Leisure Centre and the response had also been circulated.

311.6 Agree AOB

John Stewart had been contacted by a member of the public about the anti-dog-fouling images painted on the pavements and it was agreed to discuss the item under AOB.

311.7 Maggie's Day

Unfortunately the Maggie's Day presentation had had to be postponed but would be rearranged.

- ◆ **Action: Sean Watters to rearrange the Maggie's Day presentation for September.**

311.8 Reports

311.8a Treasurer: The balance currently stood at £1,741.87.

311.8b Neighbourhood Partnership: No report.

311.8c Planning:

Renewal of Consent for a new Portobello High School, 13/03200/FUL: The Chair gave a brief description of the background to the application and why the Community Council had previously taken a neutral position on the issue. In the current circumstances he suggested that deciding what position to take be put to a vote. There followed a lengthy discussion with differing views expressed. A number of people felt the Community Council should maintain a neutral stance as the proposals were the same as before, opinion within the community was divided, and that the outcome of the Private Bill consultation could not be relied upon as a guide to local opinion for a variety of reasons including the poor quality of the consultation, inaccurate information accompanying the consultation, and that only a minority of people in the local area had responded. Others thought that, whereas previously the balance of opinion within the community had been unclear, the outcome of the Private Bill consultation was clear evidence that there was more support than opposition within the local community for building the school on the park and as such, in line with its duty to reflect the views of the community, the Community Council should support the application. It was agreed that any response should reflect the diversity of views, but it was proposed to either support or simply comment upon the application. The meeting proceeded to a secret ballot, authorised in this instance by COEC. The outcome of the ballot was 9-7 in favour of supporting the application.

◆ **Action: John Stewart to draft a letter, and circulate for comment before sending.**

Housing development at Newcraighall north, 13/03181/FUL: The Chair gave a brief description of a new planning application for the Newcraighall north site. There had been a long and complicated history to proposed development at this site and in addition to existing concerns about greenfield development, increased traffic problems, erosion of the greenbelt and coalescence with Musselburgh, overdevelopment and the impact on the local community, new concerns were noted: the number of dwellings had increased yet again, by a third: future access roads to the north were indicated suggesting further loss of greenbelt land: an adverse impact on cycle routes in the vicinity. Ben McLeish reported that feeling within the local community was still very much against the proposals, and that both the Gilberstoun Residents' Association and the Newcraighall Heritage and Residents' Association would be objecting. After discussion it was agreed to object to the application, raising the above concerns.

◆ **Action: Ben Mcleish to draft a letter, and circulate for comment before sending.**

Retail unit, 99 Inchview Terrace, 13/03189/PPP: The Chair gave a brief description of an application for Planning Permission in Principle for a food retail unit on the site of the former Land Rover garage, followed by a discussion of the proposals. A number of people felt the Community Council should object citing a variety of concerns: increased traffic congestion at Seafield Junction, increased traffic along Wakefield Avenue and disruption to local residents, an adverse impact on the vitality of the High Street, that the building would be inappropriate for the gateway to Portobello and views would be spoiled. Others felt that there were potential benefits to a food retail unit in that location, some people would welcome it, that the retail impact on the High Street would not be significant, and as there wasn't a clear indication of the balance of opinion within the community the Community Council should not take a definitive stance. A proposal was made to object and put to a vote by a show of hands. The outcome was 10-4 against objecting. It was agreed instead to write a letter of comment raising the points discussed.

◆ **Action: Diana Cairns to draft a letter, and circulate for comment before sending.**

310.8d Signs & plaques: Celia Butterworth reported that the application for a grant for a plaque to the architect William Hay had been successful and thanked Scotmid. The repair to the coadstone pillar was also being progressed.

310.8e Community Centre: David Scott reported that the next meeting was Tuesday 10th September at the Community Centre. He also reminded everyone that the skittle season at the Sheep's Heid was due to start on the first Saturday in September and invited anyone interested to come along.

310.8f Joppa Tennis Courts: Robert Gatliff reported that the tennis courts had had a very busy and successful summer.

310.8g Councillors: Cllr Child circulated her report.

310.9 AOB

John Stewart had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the anti-dog-fouling images that COEC had started painting on pavements. Cllr Child confirmed that she had received a similar complaint from one individual but she thought that the initiative had been well received in general. It was also confirmed that the images washed off in the rain and were only re-painted where a dog fouling problem persisted. After discussion it was generally agreed that it was a worthwhile initiative to try and reduce what was an unpleasant problem.

310.10 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 30th September 2013 (312)

Subsequent dates are: 28th October 2013 (313)

25th November 2013 (314)

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