

Dear Secretary, Portobello Community Council

I am writing to invite you to a meeting on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street (go down the alleyway to the hall at the back) to discuss possible ways forward for cultural developments in Portobello. You are being invited as a representative of a cultural group or activity in Portobello. The meeting is part of the planning process for an event that Big Things on the Beach intends to hold in February 2015 to explore with the wider public the possibility for significant cultural developments in Portobello.

Big Things on the Beach has a ten year history of supporting artists to create new work in public spaces in Portobello. We have done this in the hope of adding to the vibrancy of community life in Portobello; we have also sought to connect our activities with local, city and national cultural and planning developments and we have had some successes along the way. However, more recently, we have also experienced something of a 'glass ceiling' when it comes to raising expectations (and the resources to back them up) of what might be achieved by a community based, volunteer organisation. We believe that this is something that affects not only ourselves but is a limit on ambition that is faced by others in the community.

In February we hope to be able to offer the community constructive ideas about ways forward for cultural developments in Portobello but we do not want to develop these only from our own perspective. At the meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> we would like to share our thinking with you and to explore how your group might want to participate in and benefit from the February event. We hope that you or another representative of your group will want to join us in this.

We want to take a broad and inclusive view of 'culture' in Portobello to include activities generated locally as well as cultural enterprises generated externally but located here. We would like to include activities coming from minorities in the area as well as youth culture. For this reason we are happy for you to extend this invitation to people who you suspect we might not have connected with already but who you think might want to make a contribution to the process.

Please let me know if you or an alternative representative will be attending the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. Please add contact details for anyone else you know who would like to attend but who has not received an invitation directly from us. We are looking forward to seeing you at a lively meeting in that hope that, together, we can create a stimulating and progressive public event in February.

Best wishes,  
Yours,

Damian Killeen OBE  
Chairperson  
Big Things on the Beach

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