



Portobello Community Council

Annual Report

2014

The elections held in October 2013 saw a significant change in personnel for Portobello Community Council with more than two thirds of the elected and nominated members sitting on the council for the first time.

Elected Members

Max Blinkhorn
Mark Cameron
Brian Cosford
Emma Dempsey
Maria Devoy
Gillian Eunson
Bob Jefferson

Lee Kindness
Geoff Lynn
Ben McLeish
Thea McMillan
David Medcalf
Clare Slifer
Sean Watters

Local Interest Groups

Group

Brightons and Rosefield Residents' Association
Gilberstoun Residents Association
Joppa Tennis Club
PEDAL - Portobello Transition Town
Portobello Older Peoples' Project
Wood Craft Folk Youth Organisation
Towerbank School Council

Rep

Peter Bradley
Terry Dobson
Marjorie Thomas
Eva Schonveld
Lawrence Marshall
Saul Kenrick
Stephen Dishon

Consultation and engagement

The principal function of a community council is to consult the residents and business owners it represents and to make their views known to public authorities, service providers and other stakeholders. With that in mind, Portobello Community Council has established a Consultation and Engagement Committee to oversee, monitor and develop this key function. The PCC covers a diverse area and population and the Consultation and Engagement committee aim to consult and represent a wide range of groups and individuals.

Steps taken to increase engagement include:-

- A revamped website which is updated regularly with public notices, relevant community news as well as formal reports and documentation
- A frequently updated Facebook page
- A Twitter feed

- An email mailing list of local residents and organisations
- A regular e-newsletter with information and links

For those who are not online

- A refreshed and improved area in Portobello Library
- Establishment of a noticeboard network
- A regular column in the Porty Reporter
- A monthly consultation at Scotmid

Regular community consultations have already taken place at ScotMid and are slated to continue on the second Saturday of each month - the busiest Saturday. The ScotMid sessions are key for talking to people face-to-face and finding out the priorities for local residents. So far, the ScotMid sessions have met with an extremely positive response from shoppers and members of the public.

Community councillors also liaise with community representatives, the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership and elected members in helping identify areas of priority or greatest need.

Recent consultations

Portobello Community Council has assisted with or conducted a diverse range of consultations in the last six months, including a development comprising 220 houses at Newcraighall North, a new pedestrian crossing at Abercorn Terrace, some proposed changes to Edinburgh School Holidays and the idea of creating some dog free zones on Portobello Beach during the summer months.

There have also be a significant number of city-wide and Scotland-wide consultations which the PCC has taken steps to bring to the community's attention. These included: community empowerment legislation, the Edinburgh Parks Manifesto, City of Edinburgh Council Budget, anti-social behaviour policy, Neighbourhood Partnership Priorities for next year and Policing Priorities for the local area.

The headline numbers in terms of responses generated from consultation and engagement activity conducted or co-ordinated by Portobello Community Council in the period are as follows:-

	Responses
Newcraighall North	20+
Abercorn Terrace Pedestrian Crossing	129
ScotMid February	100
ScotMid March	59
School Holiday changes	60
Beach Zones consultation ¹	>600
ScotMid May	50
ScotMid June	30

In terms of overall reach, the main headline numbers are as follows:-

Public consultations	309 respondents
Website	3,971 users
Facebook	489 Likes
Twitter	420 Followers
Mailing list	519 Subscribers
Porty Reporter	Circulation 12,500

Please see separate PCC Engagement report for more detailed statistics

¹ Includes 37 responses gathered on the Prom and 33 responses from ScotMid April

Public Notices

The PCC receives a very significant volume of public notices from the City Council, Scottish Government agencies and other public bodies. These include Traffic Orders, Licensing Applications, Planning Applications, funding opportunities, consultations on public matters, meeting notices, agenda and reports. As far as possible, these notices are published on the PCC website, Facebook and Twitter feeds so that members of the public can keep up to date.

See <http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn> for more details.

Planning

Major planning applications in the period included a 220-home development at Newcraighall North, a refreshed application for a new Portobello High School at Milton Road East and appeals relating to planning applications for LIDL at Inchview Terrace and Debenhams at Fort Kinnaird. A pre-application consultation process has been launched for the Baileyfield site, which has been purchased by housebuilder Crudens and ALDI. They are preparing plans for a development of 200 homes and a food store on the site. The city council is also finalising details of a revised version of the Local Development Plan for Edinburgh (LDP2) and it is expected to go out for consultation in the near future.

All planning weekly lists are published on the PCC website and can be accessed here:-

<http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn/category/publicnotices/planning/>

Community-related Initiatives and activities

There are many hundreds of clubs, associations, voluntary groups, charities, businesses and not-for-profit organisations which contribute to the fabric of this community. The community council is just one layer of that, but we have been fortunate to have been given notice of, or been able to contribute to, a wide range of community-related initiatives and activities.

These have included: the proposed amalgamation of three Church of Scotland Churches in Portobello to form a single congregation worshipping at St Philip's, a project to raise awareness of those who suffer from dementia, a St Patrick's Day Parade on the Prom, the adoption of Brunstane Station by the community and the promotion of Portobello as a seaside destination to train commuters, a campaign to reopen Portobello Station, a plaque and commemorative event to mark the life of Eric Lomax, *The Railway Man* and efforts to install a 'measured mile' on the Prom.

Future meetings

All Portobello Community Council meetings are open to the public. Dates for your diary:-

Monday, 25 August

Monday, 29 September

Monday, 27 October

Monday, 24 November

Contact us

Email: secretary@portobelloc.org

Web: www.portobelloc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil

Twitter: [@portobelloc](https://twitter.com/portobelloc)