



## Portobello Community Council

### Annual Report

2015

Portobello Community Council has remained focused on its primary purpose during 2014/15 which is to consult the residents and business owners it represents and to make their views known to public authorities, service providers and other stakeholders.

To this end, the community council has concentrated on three main objectives:-

1. Raise awareness of matters of community interest
2. Encourage engagement in community matters by residents, business owners and community groups
3. Provide a voice for the community by gathering feedback and making representations (where relevant)

A mixture of online and offline methods have been deployed to achieve these aims.

- The pcc website is updated regularly with public notices, relevant community news as well as formal reports and documentation
- The Facebook page is also regularly updated with public notices and other items of community interest
- The Twitter feed is actively updated and used to share community info
- Regular email newsletters are distributed with information and links

For those who are not online

- The PCC area in Portobello Library is kept up to date
- The noticeboard network is frequently refreshed
- A column is provided for the Porty Reporter
- Monthly consultations at ScotMid

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.

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

Website	18,575 users
Facebook	1060 likes
Twitter	729 Followers
Mailing list	1,234 Subscribers
Porty Reporter	Circulation 12,500

*Please see separate PCC Engagement report for more detailed statistics*

### **Recent consultations**

Portobello Community Council has assisted with or conducted a diverse range of consultations in the last 12 months, including a major planning application for a food store and 200 houses on Portobello High Street, the threatened closure of public toilet facilities, a proposal for permanent beach volleyball courts, the allocation of land for housing as part of the Local Development Plan 2, the re-surfacing options for Brighton Place and the proposed changes to the Towerbank Primary School catchment.

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
Local Development Plan 2	137
20mph Zones	121
Village Show / Prize Draw	200
Aldi/Curden Homes, Portobello High Street	423
Public Toilets Closure	304
Volleyball Courts Proposal	160
Brighton Place Re-Surfacing	393
Towerbank Catchment Informal Consultation	182
Retirement Development, Portobello High Street	109

### **Public Notices**

The PCC receives a 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.portobelloc.org/pccpn> for more details.

### **Planning**

Major planning applications in the period included plans for a development of 200 homes and a food store on Portobello High Street.

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

<http://www.portobelloc.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: A well-attended General Election Hustings in Portobello Town Hall, a talk by Richard Demarco at Edinburgh College, the adoption of Brunstane Station by the community and the promotion of Portobello as a seaside destination to train commuters, the campaign to reopen Portobello Station 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, 31 August

Monday, 28 September

Monday, 26 October

Monday, 30 November

## **Contact us**

Email: [secretary@portobellocc.org](mailto:secretary@portobellocc.org)

Web: [www.portobellocc.org](http://www.portobellocc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil)

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