The Big Vote – Putting the debate in the hands of local people

As the countdown to September 18th 2014 gathers pace, the aspiration of The Scottish Community Alliance *(*[*http://www.localpeopleleading.co.uk*](http://www.localpeopleleading.co.uk)) is that the debate is opened up to a much wider audience and that opportunities should exist to help people explore the issues involved. We see the Big Vote as one of those opportunities. We are therefore touring Scotland and will be visiting Portobello on Wednesday 27th August.

The Big Vote is a series of community events hosted by local organisations, supported by the Scottish Community Alliance. The way these events work is that people sit in groups of 5-6 at small tables and play a card game which has been specially designed to promote conversation about many of the key issues and arguments in the debate. The card game has been inspired by So Say Scotland's Wee Play Game. [**http://www.scotlandlovesdemocracy.org/**](http://www.scotlandlovesdemocracy.org/) Players get dealt hands of cards and take it in turns to play them. But instead of playing to win, they are playing to learn and become involved in a conversation about the independence referendum.

There is no top table and no key speakers.  Representatives from Yes Scotland and Better Together campaigns are on hand to support the table based discussions and answer questions when called upon to do so.

The Big Vote aims to create a ‘safe’ and relaxed opportunity for local people to explore some of the big issues related to the independence question, in an environment which is mutually respectful of all sides of the argument.

**Due to the nature of the event and venue it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance if you wish to attend by e-mailing** **secretary@portobellocc.org** **or phoning 07866 048685.**

**The Big Vote – 7:30pm, Wednesday 27th August, St Mark’s Church, 287 Portobello High Street.**