



Portobello Community Council

Annual Report

2018

Portobello Community Council has remained focused on its primary purpose during the period August 2017 to July 2018 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 regularly refreshed
- A column is provided for the Porty Reporter
- Consultations at drop-in sessions and public events

Community councillors also liaise with community representatives, the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership, local police officers 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	14,494 users
Facebook	2,331 likes

Twitter	1,428 Followers
Mailing list	656 Subscribers (decrease due to GDPR)
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 and public information sessions in the last 12 months, including a Participation Request for the proposed sale of the Pitz site on Westbank Street, the developments at Baileyfield South and Portobello Sands (Pipe Lane), the proposal by City of Edinburgh Council to replace the setts on Brighton Place and the efforts by a local community group 'Friends of the George' to acquire the site of the former George Cinema on Bath Street.

The participant request was the first received by Edinburgh Council, following the Community Empowerment legislation coming into effect.

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 matters in the period included the proposed sale of the Pitz site on Westbank Street, Brunstane and the development of the Baileyfield South site.

Relevant planning applications in the area, with public interest 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 public meeting in the Town Hall in November 2017 to discuss the sale of the Pitz site which was attended by over 150 people, a popular stall at the Portobello Village Show, the annual sandcastle building competition, a crowdfunding campaign to save the Old Parish Church and Hall on Bellfield Street, and input into the redevelopment of the playpark at Straiton Place.

Future meetings

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

Monday, 27 August

Monday, 24 September

Monday, 29 October

Monday, 26 November

Contact us

Email: secretary@portobellocc.org

Web: www.portobellocc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil

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