



Minutes of the 373rd Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 27th January 2020 (DRAFT)

Present: Mike Leeman, Craig McIntyre, Lee Kindness (from 8:35), Frazer McNaughton, Elaine Murray, Esther Gray, Paul Goodwin, John Cleland, Lauren Berrie, Rhys Nealon, Stephen Hawkins

Apologies: Ruth Wallace, Miranda Hurst, Catherine Etoe, Geoff Lynn Cllr Kate Campbell

In Attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Mary Campbell, and 26 members of the public

373.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Mike Leeman, in the absence of the co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each member of the Community Council introduced themselves. The sad news that Marjorie Thomas, the representative of Joppa Tennis Club, had died was relayed and Maureen Child was asked to say give an appreciation of Marjorie's contribution to the community. Marjorie's commitment to serving the community has been over a long period of time going back to the start of Portobello Community Council and Marjorie had been involved in many community ventures as well as being a keen sportswoman. Her contributions to the work of the community council will be sorely missed and on behalf of PCC condolences go to Marjorie's family.

373.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

373.3 Police report

No police were present and no report had been forwarded.

373.4 Safer Routes to School

A presentation was given by New Practice on the initiatives that have been taken by local schools with the assistance of Sustrans to connect primary and secondary schools. Evaluation and engagement issues were highlighted in taking this matter forward including pop-up sessions at community events. This presentation was well received with queries being raised about workshops and Council involvement through capital projects. A statement was made about the confusion that can arise with a number of initiatives taking place.

373.5 a Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there had been no movement on the PCC account since the last meeting and that the balance stood at £1,811.66. The Traders' balance is £1,259.41. Following discussion at the November meeting, the Treasurer had approached a contact for the traders about how to spend the money. The intention is to spend it on items that would be used over several years rather than a one off and that they would be happy to discuss in Spring for Christmas 2020.

373.5 b Neighbourhood Network

Nothing to report. It was noted that there was a poor attendance from community representatives at the last meeting. Following a request a brief explanation of what function a Neighbourhood Network fulfils was given.



373. 5 c Planning

i) Standard Life Site Amendment (Baileyfield South)

The application is to replace three floors of commercial space with nine flats in the consented mixed development. Discussion raised issues such as the need for employment opportunities, lack of community space with loss of Town Hall, interest may only come once the development is occupied, pressure on existing doctors' and dentists' and lack of these at the east end of Portobello. The point was made that once converted to flats there is no chance of reverting to commercial use.

The community council had carried out extensive consultation at the time of the original application where many similar issues were raised. It was felt that there was sufficient evidence from this consultation to form a basis to object to this latest proposal. The proposal is to be published on the website etc.

ii) St. Mary's Place

Concern was expressed that an application for a house in a rear garden had not been advertised correctly and that clearance work had already started. This was for a site where previous applications over a period of 11 years had been refused permission. Views were expressed from the floor that the Conservation Area was being eroded. It was agreed to publish this proposal on the website etc. and encourage individuals to comment.

iii) 77 Promenade – The Dalriada

An application has been made for a change of use of the Dalriada public house with living accommodation above to three flats. The view was expressed that there is a public interest in that there is a lack of facilities at this end of the promenade and that spaces such as this are required for celebrations and other events. The new developments at Brunstane and other new housing in Portobello require a mixture of uses to form a sustainable community. Again, it was stated that should the conversion take place then there would be no return and this public house would be lost. As the time period to comment is short, it was agreed to conduct a short survey over approximately one week to gauge the community's opinion from which the community council will then make comments.

iv) Charity Day

Although not strictly a planning matter it was agreed to include as an agenda item for the next meeting the offer from Reid Amusements to hold another charity day on Straiton Park.

v) City Plan

The City Plan will be launched on 31st January and it was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting. This is to be considered in tandem with the City Mobility Plan and a public event for Portobello is to be held at the Washhouse, Adelphi Grove on Saturday 8th February 11.00 until 4.00.

Actions:

Objection to be submitted to the Standard Life application. Stephen subsequently volunteered to draft and circulate submission.



Links for planning portal to be put on website for Standard Life, St. Mary's Place and 77 Promenade applications.

Michael to write to planning officer to ask for extension of time on 77 Promenade application.

Michael and Lee to arrange for short consultation on 77 Promenade application.

Item on charity day on Straiton Park to be included on February meeting agenda

373.6 Town Hall

No further update since November meeting. It was stated that a community group was looking at a viable proposal.

373.7 Brunstane Road Update

A further officer report has been prepared with options of either it becoming a quieter road or keeping the existing access with the possibility of a report to the May Transport and Environment Committee. The report will consider the wider effects as a Portobello issue following which there will be consultation on the proposal.

373.8 Portobello Great Neighbourhood Award

This award is given by the Academy of Urbanism and was collected at an event in London and is something that recognises the start-up community spirit and activism of Portobello and Joppa residents. The physical environment of the promenade and Portobello High Street were also recognised. The Academy will be meeting in Edinburgh for the 2020 awards and will take the opportunity to again visit Portobello. It was suggested that thought is given to how we might host the participants.

Action:

All to give consideration on any hosting event for the Academy

373.9 Library Area

A start has been made on tidying up the area in Portobello library that is given over to the community council and freshening it up.

373.10 AOB

i) Parking in Brighton Place and Other Road Issues

A question was raised about parking in Brighton Place that hinders the use of the flat setts by cyclists. The cycle paths along Christian Path and West Brighton Crescent were mentioned as a route. The difficulty for buses in Southfield Place with parking on both sides was highlighted and it was stated that this was being looked into. A cyclist raised the serious issue of a short delay at the Southfield Place/Baileyfield Road junction that does not allow sufficient time to clear the junction after the lights turn red. This will be taken up.

A query was raised about changes to the road configuration at the Sir Harry Lauder Road/ Portobello High Street junction following the death of a cyclist. There may be a delay due to legal matters not being



concluded however it was agreed to ascertain the current position. The position of the bus stops at the west end of Portobello High Street has been looked at but no changes can be accommodated.

Action:

Mary to pursue a delay in sequencing of the lights at Southfield Place/Baileyfield Road junction to increase safety of cyclists

Michael to write to police for update on report into incident at Sir Harry Lauder Road/Portobello High Street

ii) Tumbles – Edinburgh Leisure

Uncertainty surrounding Edinburgh Leisure services, especially Tumbles, that are at risk due to budget cuts was discussed. An opinion was expressed that that nothing has been decided and that, at this time, there is nothing for the community council to do.

iii) City Choices

This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action:

Item to be included on the agenda for February meeting

iv) Recycling Waste

It had been noticed that recycling and residual waste was being collected by the same lorry in the Adelphi Place with the difficulty of access because of parked cars being given as the reason. This had already been noted and information is to be passed to the Secretary.

Action:

Michael to contact Maureen for feedback on bin collections

v) Presentation on Quaich Project

The offer has been made for a presentation on the proposed changes to Princes Street Gardens. A view was expressed that consultation on this had finished and that it affected an area outside the community council. A further view was that this was a project that affected all residents in Edinburgh and that it would be appropriate to hear what was proposed. The suggestions were made that several community councils could come together for one presentation or that a normal meeting could start half an hour early to accommodate the presentation. It was agreed that further thoughts were needed and that members would agree a course of action on Basecamp.

Action:

Members to discuss how to take this forward on Basecamp.

vi) Hustings



The Chair thanked those who organised a very successful hustings held before the general election in 2019 and especially the members of the Baptist Church who provided the venue.

The 373rd PCC meeting was closed at 09:13

The next meeting is Monday 24th February 2020

DRAFT