



Portobello Community Council

Annual Report

2020

The Coronavirus pandemic resulted in the cancellation of a number of the monthly physical community council meetings, and the delay of the AGM. Regular virtual meetings are now running and the community council remained focused on its primary purpose during the period August 2019 to October 2020. This 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, businesses & 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, where possible
- 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 Network, local police officers 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 and public information sessions in the last 15 months, including parking at Kings Place, trading licence at Straiton Place Park, new Newcraighall Primary School, coordinating with local primary schools on safer routes to school, Dalriada change of use planning application, Baileyfield South change of use planning application, Brustane Rd / Joppa Triangle road traffic management plans, Choices for City Plan 2030, and sharing material on the City of Edinburgh Council Spaces for People programme.

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.portobellocc.org/pccpn> for more details.

Planning

Key planning matters in the period included the proposed change of use of the Dalriada bar to residential, the change of use of commercial space at Baileyfield South and the refresh of the New Brunstane planning application.

Following from our consultation on the Choices for City Plan 2030 we began coordinating with neighbouring community councils, to try and ensure that the public is fully involved in the design and development of the Seafield site..

Relevant planning applications in the area, with public interest 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: support for the Beach Wheelchairs at Tumbles, the annual sandcastle building competition (virtual) and input into the bouncy castle charity day held by Albert Reid at Straiton Place which unfortunately has been cancelled.

Future meetings

All Portobello Community Council meetings are open to the public. Dates for your diary: Monday, 26 October; Monday, 30 November; Monday, 25 January 2021

Contact us

Email: secretary@portobellocc.org

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