



Minutes of the 378th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 30th November 2020 DRAFT

Present: Mike Leeman (Secretary), Craig McIntyre (Co-Chair), Lee Kindness (Co-Chair), Frazer McNaughton, John Cleland, Laurie Berrie (Engagement Officer), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer), Geoff Lynn, Miranda Hurst, Catherine Etoe, Rhys Nealon, Esther Clayton

Apologies: Cllr Kate Campbell, Cllr. Callum Laidlaw, Elaine Murray

In Attendance: Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Callum Laidlaw, PC John Anderson and 23 Members of the public

378.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Lee Kindness welcomed everyone and there were introductions. Mike Leeman explained how the meeting would work as it was online and if anyone wanted to say something to raise a virtual hand and we would work through the questions and statements.

378.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed with one correction from Catherine Etoe that the map was from the Council consultation not the library drop in session. This as in relation to 377.2 Spaces For People.

The consultation on public spaces has been extended to 20th January so the PCC response will be gathered before that. Laurie Berrie also pointed out that this was a stakeholder survey and a further consultation for the public would be released in 2021.

378.3 Sir Harry Lauder Rd to Eastfield safety update

Craig McIntyre and Lee Kindness had a meeting with CEC officers, ward councillors and Spokes Party following the death of Heather Stronach at the Kings Road, Sir Harry Lauder Way junction. PCC also wrote a letter to the council <http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn/2020/11/03/letter-in-regards-the-fatality-on-portobello-high-street/> and submitted a deputation to the most recent Transport & Environment Committee. The council have a number of recommendations which they are going to be taking forward. CEC have a proposal to remove the advisory HGV route in January and look at better signage to alternative cycle routes (e.g. Fishwives Causeway). This is expected to start in January. There is a little more to develop in regards ideas for the High Street such as more segregated lanes and build outs to widen pavements; this needs more tweaking before being put out to consultation. Catherine Etoe pointed out that when she went through the map from previous consultations there were a lot of comments on cycling on the prom and high street and the want for more segregated lanes and creating good pedestrian links. Miranda Hurst asked if a cycle lane had been discussed for the High Street. Cllr. Mary Campbell said they were looking at it. As this was not a Spaces for People project it would need a TRO to be put out. Additionally, the entire line from Kings road to Eastfield is under review, with improved safety measures being confirmed adjacent to the Daisy Park.

378.4 Brunstane Road Council Consultation

Lee Kindness led by pointing out that the City of Edinburgh Council have a consultation running until 13th December 2020 on whether Brunstane Road should be closed to all through traffic and roads around the Coillesdene area closed to through traffic. This had been raised earlier in the year and shelved due to COVID-19. PCC had already run a consultation on the subject.

Jean Imrie, a Brunstane Road resident and member of Calming Brunstane Group then spoke and summarised the deputation that the Calming Brunstane Group had submitted to the Council as part of the Transport and Environment Committee (see here <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/b17338/Deputations%2012th-Nov-2020%2010.00%20Transport%20and%20Environment%20Committee.pdf?T=9>) and why the Group believed the Brunstane Road and Joppa Triangle measures should be put in place.

Catherine Etoe brought up if any thought had been given to what effect this closure could have on Brighton Place. Cllr. Mary Campbell said that there will be ongoing traffic surveys but she has not been given timescales for these.



Cllr Maureen Child talked about how this has been a continuing issue for over 30 years and that the Council need to ensure that they have the data to back up the point of view of closing the roads. She emphasised that anyone responding to the CEC consultation should ask for consideration to be given to the whole Portobello area.

Members of the public talked about their experience and also about how the wider area needs to be considered with any plan and what combined solutions can be given to all of the EH15 area and asked CEC to be courageous in their future proposals.

Spokes Party also fully supported the closure.

There was also a member of the public from Joppa Station Place who was against the proposal pointing out whilst something needing doing this was perhaps not the best solution.

Lee Kindness then said what we needed to decide as a community council is the response to the CEC consultation. It was agreed that PCC would submit an objection, which summarised our consultation from March 2020.

ACTION: Lee to summarise the PCC Consultation from March (full results here <http://www.portbellocc.org/pccpn/2020/08/31/brunstane-rd-joppa-triangle-results/>) to respond to CEC consultation.

378.5 Pipe Lane Toilet Facilities Project

Craig McIntyre, Frazer McNaughton, Stephen Hawkins and John Cleland met with Graeme McGartland to discuss the opportunities that a commercial revamp of the Pipe Lane toilet facilities would have. It was a very positive meeting and talks are continuing internally at the Council as to how the bidding process and ensure any alterations to the current building would be approved. Craig McIntyre will be able to report back in January.

ACTION : Craig to update PCC in January

378.6 Seafield Connecting Coastal Communities

Craig McIntyre gave the background that 4 local community councils that border on Seafield have been having discussions on how they can connect coastal communities and ensure that there is a holistic and considered approach to the regeneration (Seafield being one of the Brownfield sites highlights in the CityPlan 20300 and how the communities can have their voice heard in any regeneration.

The 4 CCs are looking to start an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) which will allow them to speak as one voice for all of the communities and formalise how best the CCs feed into the development plan and on-going strategy.

The question was asked by Craig McIntyre if PCC wanted to be part of the SPV, Lee Kindness Seconded this and it was agreed across the community council.

ACTION : Craig to communicate that PCC happy to be part of the SPV, and to continue to update on the meetings.

378.7 Reimagining King's Place

Lee Kindness pointed out that the double yellow lines and parking circle were now in at the foot of Kings Place. Bob Jefferson representing The Boathouse asked to speak on a proposal that is coming from the Boathouse. They wanted to get a consultation moving and feel that it is dragging on getting one done by the PCC so have started one themselves which they hope that the community council will publicise.

Frazer McNaughton asked the purpose of a new consultation when one has been done by the PCC to which 1100 people responded and showed a clear agenda to design and placemaking something strong on Kings Place and what was needed now was delivery.

Lee-Anne Menzies who works for MSP Ash Denham suggested a concern that any consultation from a commercial entity could be seen at odds and whether the benefits would be for the community or the commercial entity.



Bob Jefferson repeated that the Boathouse wanted to find out what people were thinking now and did not want to wait another 6 months and for another Summer to go by without seeing King's Place become more attractive.

Catherine Etoe voiced concerns over consultation fatigue.

Frazer McNaughton talked about how we all have frustrations with how long things are taking but that the council have committed to running a consultation and we are waiting to find out when. Frazer voiced his own view about getting it right and implementing change in the right way and asked the politicians on the call to give a gentle nudge to move their consultation and design along.

John Cleland also questioned the need for a new consultation when the caravans were being moved, the spaces for people measures being put in place.

Bob Jefferson said this was why they wanted to start a conversation around what Kings Place could look like.

Whilst on the meeting call Cllr. Mary Campbell said that a CEC member had come back to her to reemphasise that they want to work with the community on reimagining Kings Place and so would escalate. Bob welcomed this and The Boathouse would still run its consultation and feed their results back to PCC and CEC.

378.8 Traders Account

The bank statements had been checked to verify the amounts received from the traders for the Christmas Lights fund. Two deposits of £385.00 and £876.50 were made which totals £1261.50. However, when the separate interest earning account was set up for the traders, only £1258.00 was transferred with a shortfall of £3.50. The former Treasurer had been contacted but no information could be gained on why there is a discrepancy.

It was agreed by all in the community council to transfer of £3.50 to the Traders' Account from the Business Account.

ACTION: Treasurer to transfer £3.50 from the PCC account to the Traders Account

378.9 a Treasurer's Report

Website Hosting

A misunderstanding had arisen when paying an invoice for web hosting to Cardoness and Lewis Ltd, a company where a member, Geoff Lynn is a director. The cost of hosting the site is given at a discount. In order to show that the community council operates in a transparent manner approval was sought to continue this arrangement.

It was agreed by all in the community council that the website is hosted by Cardoness and Lewis Ltd.

Domain name

In line with the above there was also a question of who owns the rights to the domain name. It was agreed that this matter be discussed by a small group.

Action : Stephen, Laurie and Geoff to discuss

General items

The invoice from McRobb for the repair to the seaside interpretation board for £297.72 has been received. A copy will be forwarded to the insurers, Zurich and an invoice raised to Portobello Amenity Society for the share of the insurance excess. There is an issue with sealing the mitres at the corners of the board and when this is sorted the invoice from McRobb will be paid.

The inventory of interpretation boards has still to be completed however a new board has appeared at the community garden and there are others along the promenade. The one at the community garden poses a hazard to children playing on the grass mound and the Parks Department has been emailed to ask who has erected it.



Stephen Hawkins and Craig McIntyre met at the notice board at Tumbles car park to look at repainting options. A brief specification for contractors to price has been prepared although no work will be done until next year. A change of colour from black was suggested, possibly after a small consultation.

There has been no movement in the past month on the Business account which remains at £ 2,058.45. We received written authority from over ten traders to release £400.00 to Action Party to support the Winter Wonderland project and this sum has been transferred. The Traders' account, at this moment, stands at £ 859.80.

377.6 b Neighbourhood Network

Mike forgot to take this off. It will not be on the next Agenda.

377.6 c Planning

No planning was needed to be discussed at this meeting

377.6 d Councillors

No further updates other than what was given in the meeting.

Cllr. Maureen Child pointed out that she has also been emailed about the new boards which have been erected on and near the Prom and is following up to find out who knows about them internally at CEC.

377.7 AOB

Police Scotland: PC John Anderson talked through that they had recently run Operation Close Pass (an initiative to educate motorised road users on the dangers on passing too closely to cyclists) on Seaview Terrace and they aim to do it again in the near future.

Bonfire Night was not too bad this year with only 7 calls between 4th & 5th November.

Trees have been cut back in Rosefield Park after complaints about issues with youths.

Police Scotland are aware of issues on Kings Road and have asked for parking attendants to be informed as well.

Catherine Etoe asked if there had been extra police presence on Duddingston Road since the introduction of the double yellow lines to which John said he would put out a briefing to the community police officers.

Meeting finished at 21.05

The next meeting is Monday 25th January 2021