



## Minutes of the 382nd Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 AGREED

**Present:** Mike Leeman (Secretary), Craig McIntrye (Co-Chair), Lee Kindness (Co-Chair), Frazer McNaughton, Laurie Berrie (Engagement Officer), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer), Catherine Etoe, Elaine Murray, John Cleland, Esther Clayton

**Apologies:** Rhys Nealon, Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Callum Laidlaw, Geoff Lynn

**In Attendance:** Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Kate Campbell, , 10 Members of the public

### 382.1 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.

### 382.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

In regards **380.5 Kings Road Junction** There has been some movement but the planner at the Council has left the role so this delayed. It looks like preference will be given to option 2a (in essence no left turn for HGVs onto Sir Harry Lauder Road) but this is subject to safety audits. See

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s33414/7.2%20-%20Delivery%20of%20the%20Road%20Safety%20Improvements%20Programme%20with%20apps%20and%20wards.pdf>

There was concern raised by the public and Catherine Etoe about if this would mean more HGVs up Brighton Place but Cllr. Kate Campbell said that the emphasis would be to get HGVs to continue up and turn left on Northfield Broadway.

**381.4 Hustings for May Elections** – All four candidates will be attending on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Questions have been received and Glenn Innes has agreed to chair.

There was a question from the public about the use of outside space by the Boathouse. It was agreed that the best option would be for individuals to write to [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) who would be able to respond more appropriately.

### 382.3 Toilet Provision

Lee Kindness gave background that we were all aware of a rise in people using the lanes/gardens/walls etc to relieve themselves as there was inadequate toilet provision across Portobello. This has been discussed in a wider context at a council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April which can be read in full here

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s33415/7.8%20-%20Public%20Convenience%20Strategy%20v11.pdf>

Key points for Portobello are that Bath Street toilets are to be opened as soon as is practicable. The council are asking for £450,000 for extra temporary toilet provision across the city and it would be widely accepted that Portobello would need some of this. The decision on funding will be made on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April see

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s33504/Item%207.2%20-%20Future%20Provision%20of%20Public%20Conveniences%20referral%20from%20the%20Transport%20and%20Environment%20Com.pdf>

Questions were asked by Lee Kindness on what extra provision would mean for Portobello and by Esther Clayton on timing for the provision. No immediate answer could be given as this will depend on what is agreed at the Council meeting on Thursday.

Members of the public talked through their experiences of seeing people using public spaces as toilets and also that in the last lockdown easing how the swimming pool was not able to let the public use its facilities. It



was also raised that as pubs/restaurants are opening up more that their facilities might also be available for use.

The councillors also pointed out that extra signage to show the locations of toilets should be getting put in place.

**ACTION: Ensure that once decisions are made on Bath Street and temporary toilets these are publicised. Write an updated letter to the Director of Place to ask that Portobello be considered for temporary toilets from the emergency fund.**

Lee Kindness and Craig McIntrye also talked through that the Pipe Lane consultation was now live and that it would be good to publicise this through social media paid promotion. Lee proposed and Craig seconded. The cost would be expected to be around £60 which Stephen Hawkins confirmed would be available from the account

**ACTION: Setup online promotion of consultation**

### 382.4 a Treasurer's Report

There has been one item of expenditure during the month since the last meeting which was a reimbursement of Basecamp fees for the period of September 2020 to April 2021 for £123.40. This leaves the balance of the account at £ 1,784.87.

A sum of £ 342.00 has been returned to the Traders' Account from the Winter Wonderland project and this account stands at £ 1,205.35.

There is an outstanding decision to repaint the three sign boards that the community council maintains. Before going ahead with this work the Treasurer suggested preparing a budget for the coming year to identify what funds are available. This will be done within the next week and posted on Basecamp.

### 382.4 b Police

No one from Police Scotland was able to attend. Cllr. Callum Laidlaw in a note said he had been in touch with Murray Tait of police Scotland to highlight anti-social behaviour across the beach and parks and had been assured patrols will be stepped up. Cllr Kate Campbell also has been in touch to arrange a meeting with Police Scotland, the ward councillors, MP Tommy Sheppard and whoever the MSP is after the election to discuss this. Stephen Hawkins pointed out how fast the Police had been to respond to complaints about behaviour in Rosefield Park and emphasis was put on calling in any problems to 101.

### 382.4 c Planning

Lee Kindness brought up the advertising hoarding that is being proposed for under the bridge between Brighton Place and Southfield Place and that given the short period of time to respond the community council had publicised it.

Stephen Hawkins highlighted to the meeting that an application for 2 houses has been posted for back land on East Brighton Crescent.

### 382.4 d Councillors

Cllr. Callum Laidlaw said that he has been contacted a lot about lack of toilet facilities. On 20<sup>th</sup> April there will be a council committee which will provide costings to reopen Bath Street facilities and to extend the opening hours of the Pipe Lane facilities.

Cllr. Kate Campbell said that there was a report about to be sent out which was about junctions across the city and Kings Road/Sir Harry Lauder Road was going to be one of those reported on.

Cllr. Mary Campbell said that there was an amendment at Transport and Environment committee to investigate if segregated cycling infrastructure could still be delivered between Portobello and Musselburgh. There is also going to be a consultation on extending 20mph zones which will go live in June.

Catherine Etoe asked about the possibility of extra 20 mph signage on Brighton Place. Cllr. Kate Campbell is going to follow up on this.



### 382.5 AOB

A member of the public asked about the wider volume transport issues across Portobello and how to engage about this.

Cllr Kate Campbell agreed that the whole infrastructure needs looking at and felt that it would be very positive if the Community Council could lead on understanding where issues were and what potential ideas to solve them could be.

Elaine Murray pointed out that we did a drop-in session at the Library in March 2020 and wondered what was happening with the data that we discovered.

Cllr. Mary Campbell said that the March 2020 drop in was supposed to be a springboard to get the public, the community council and City of Edinburgh Council working together to come up with potential plans but that COVID restrictions had stopped any forward momentum.

Catherine Etoe asked who it would be a springboard for and if we could pick this up again to not let it fall by the wayside.

It was agreed that this would be put on as a future agenda item to ensure that we could start to engage again once we were out of further lockdown restrictions and everyone could get an understanding of wider changes to people's behaviours and needs.

Lee Kindness asked about the date for the AGM as this would need to be in May or June. It was agreed that due to the school summer holidays May would be better and that it would take place before the regular May meeting.

Craig McIntyre asked about the disappearance of bins across Portobello (particularly around bus stops) and if there was any insight into this. Cllr. Mary Campbell was also looking into some instances of bin disappearance so asked to be emailed with locations so that she can tie in to her investigations.

The meeting concluded at 20.39

The next meeting is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, which will be preceded by the 2021 AGM