



## Minutes of the 384th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 AGREED

**Present:** Mike Leeman (Secretary), Lee Kindness (Co-Chair), Laurie Berrie, Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer), Elaine Murray, Catherine Etoe

**Apologies:** Craig McIntyre, Frazer McNaughton, Geoff Lynn, Rhys Nealon, Esther Clayton, Cllr. Kate Campbell, Cllr. Mary Campbell

**In Attendance:**, Callum Laidlaw, Tommy Sheppard MP, 5 Members of the public

### 384.1 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. As there was not a quorate at the start of the meeting Lee moved to make this an informal meeting where actions would be looked at but no decisions taken.

### 384.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

As it was an informal meeting the previous minutes were not agreed and a call for acceptance would be taken at the next meeting.

### 384.7 b Police

PC Campbell Blackmore was standing in for PC Gareth Deering and it was decided to let him speak next.

Firstly there have been 5 house break ins throughout July across Rosefield, East Brighton Crescent, Brunstane Road and BG Cycles on the High Street.

There have been no hate crimes.

The ongoing anti-social behaviour was then discussed. The problems have been similar to the Meadows with some serious incidents. Police Scotland run Operation Drift every year in Portobello which deals with lower level misdemeanours and incidents such as missing children. This year they have had to call in a huge amount of extra officers and they agree that the public should not have to put up with the incidents.

They have found that a lot of youths have been coming in from outside of the area and all those arrested and charged have been from outside of Portobello postcodes.

There has been a lot of work with local licensed premises to ensure that they are being responsible and a lot of alcohol has been seized from under aged people.

This is an ongoing operation which will continue until the end of August.

The Chief Inspector, Murray Tait, 100% backs all initiatives in the area.

There was a question from the public about Rosefield Park and areas where people could not be seen and wondering if there was a possibility of new CCTV.

PC Blackmore said that the broken camera was now up and running and would ensure that night shift officers were passing by the area on a regular basis.

### 384.3 Brunstane Road ETRO

Lee Kindness said that we have publicised the notice on our website and through social media. He summarised that the ETRO was to close Brunstane Road at the bridge to traffic but retain access to bicycles and pedestrians and to build out around the Coillesdenes to make it an unattractive route for through traffic.

The 3 week window would be until 30<sup>th</sup> July to respond and then it would move to the next phase.

A question from the public was around the fact that there did not seem to be a joined up approach to all traffic issues in the area.



Catherine Etoe said that she has previously spoken about Brighton Place and getting more rondels on the street furniture and even radar and signs. Traffic levels were already increasing before any other road closures happened. She spoke about the need to think about the area as a whole and also the safe routes to school.

Cllr. Laidlaw said he was waiting to hear back on Abercorn Terrace and would ask about the possibility of advisor signs being put up.

### **384.4 Kings Place Update**

Lee Kindness summarised that there was not much to update. Sustrans had mentioned about doing some engagement work but there has not been a follow up yet. A member of the public who lived in the caravans asked about 3 week deadline to leave that they had recently received and the seeming lack of communication from the council.

Cllr. Laidlaw said that he was surprised about the lack of communication and would follow this up internally.

### **384.5 Future Meetings of PCC**

Mike Leeman said that whilst it was too early to make definite plans (as not guidance from the government or council) we needed to start thinking about what we do when we are allowed to meet in person again. Glenn Innes from the Baptist Church said that they would be happy to welcome PCC back and had the facilities so that we could run an in person and remote meeting at the same time. Further thought can be given to this when we have suitable guidance and a quorate.

### **384.6 Engagement Officer Position**

This will be discussed at a future meeting

### **384.7 a Treasurer's Report**

There has been one item of expenditure during the month which was the reimbursement of £72.00 for the Facebook boosting of the Pipe Lane toilets survey. We have received the annual grant from the City of Edinburgh Council for £906.74 which leaves the balance of the account at £ 2,355.49.

There has been no movement on the Traders' account with a balance of £1205.38.

With regard to the repainting of the notice boards, one quotation was received from four local painting companies that had been approached. Subsequently two others were approached but stated pressure of other work commitments precluded them from giving a price. The quotation received from was for £660.00 in total which is slightly above the budgeted estimate.

The suggestion was accepted that members are emailed asking for agreement to accept this quotation so that work can be completed by this autumn.

### **384.7 b Police**

See above

### **384.7 c Planning**

Nothing to report

### **384.7 d Councillors**

Cllr. Callum Laidlaw said the majority of his inbox has been in regards the anti-social behaviour. He was also chasing for clarity on why no temporary toilets had been put in place after the motion was agreed at council to provide them.

Tommy Sheppard MP said that he was hoping to get his office open again soon and that his assistant was leaving but he had a strong new member of the team.

### **384.8 AOB**



## Portobello Community Council

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Portobello Rotary Club are looking into putting some little libraire in place across Portobello and wanted to hear the PCC thoughts. Lee concluded that this would seem a reasonable suggestion. A member of the public who runs the little library on Brunstane Road talked about their experience and about having to keep stock fresh and dealing with vandalism but that on the whole it is seen as a rewarding experience.

The meeting concluded at 22.20

The next meeting is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August