



Minutes of the 396th meeting of Portobello Community Council

Monday 26th September 2022

Present: Craig McIntyre(Chair), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer)(PAS), Lee Kindness, Frazer McNaughton, Catherine Etoe (B&RRA), Laurie Berrie, Cllr. Kate Campbell, Cllr. Tim Jones, Cllr. Jane Meagher, Cllr. Alys Mumford.

Apologies: Mike Leeman (Secretary), Esther Clayton, Geoff Lynn (Towerbank PS)

In Attendance: Cllr. Scott Arthur, Jane Iannerelli and 64 members of the public

396.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Craig McIntyre welcomed everyone and there were introductions. Craig explained how this was the first community council meeting in person since the Covid restrictions were lifted and that it was a meeting dedicated to the proposed Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) and other traffic issues in Portobello

396.2 Controlled Parking Zone and Traffic Issues

A short presentation was given by Cllr Scott Arthur, Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee, on the progress so far in implementing further phases of controlled parking zones. He showed maps from the council's Strategic Review of Parking Survey illustrating the dividing line between Portobello and Joppa and also the parking pressure rating of streets in the defined Portobello area.

The council is taking a robust approach to managing parking provision and reduce traffic problems. From the survey, on average, there is 68% of available parking used and the defined Portobello area is ranked 23rd highest from the 124 areas Edinburgh is divided into. However only 40% of respondents stated they had a problem parking. The Transport Act 2019, which bans pavement parking, will come into force next year which will mean that vehicle owners in some streets will see more problems.

A report will be going to the Transport and Environment Committee in December and it is likely that formal, statutory consultation on the CPZ will take place in 2023. In parallel to this, the council has put together a bid to Sustrans to develop a plan for a better town centre whilst coordinating improvements to the roads and pavements.

Jane Iannerelli explained that she is leading the 20 minute neighbourhood initiative and will be engaging with residents and traders through workshops. Other group consultations will also be taken into account including that which the community council may carry out.

Before opening up for questions the Chair highlighted the big challenges ahead but stressed the need to accommodate those who are less able or have mobility issues. Questions and comments were then taken from those present which have been gathered into themes:



Buses: The service in Portobello has recently been reduced with the loss of the 124. We used to have a great bus service. How does the council expect people to get out of their cars if it isn't convenient? If one bus is missed then it can be a 20 minute wait until the next. It has to be made easy to get people out of their cars. CEC should establish an overarching vision that integrates standards for transport in Portobello and beyond facilitating the transition from dependence on car to alternative travel methods will require a sustainable and connected service, serving Portobello inwardly and outwardly.

Response: The council doesn't design the service and Lothian Buses is still coping with the effects of covid with passenger numbers having returned to only 75% of pre-pandemic levels and a lack of drivers. However car usage has returned to almost 100% of that previous. Talks are taking place with Lothian Buses.

Traffic: There is a problem with through traffic as a constant stream of traffic can be seen along the high street. Surveys need to be carried out to establish the level of through traffic. New housing developments in East Lothian have generated more traffic coming through Portobello.

Response: A report with a proposed circulation plan for the whole of Edinburgh is expected at the next Transport and Environment Committee. It is accepted that busy roads divide communities. Jane Lannerelli is looking at existing traffic data but will need to do more surveys and highlight trip alternatives.

There is a particular problem with the volume of traffic along Abercorn Terrace and the speed it travels at.

Response: A scheme has been drawn up for a pedestrian crossing and improvements at Abercorn Terrace.

Acknowledgement by Action Party, as a trader, that they are part of the problem generating drop-offs for events and are encouraging other forms of access. Can the CPZ be extended to evenings and weekends?

Re-open Brunstane Road to relieve traffic.

Response: Cllr. Tim Jones will be starting to survey residents in the Joppa triangle this week and will be speaking to the Brunstane Road group. A reminder was given that there is currently a live consultation on the closure of Brunstane Road.

There has been little raised in the meeting about traffic management.

Parking: Will a maximum number of car parking spaces be specified. There is a problem for those who use their cars for intermittent long journeys out of town – why can't they park outside their house? Where will spaces be lost and what will be the effect of the pavement parking ban?

Response: It is reasonable for residents to have space to park their cars however, this does not mean outside their home and the council is looking for ideas to take forward. Parking increase would increase traffic. The council will be taking a robust position on pavement parking.



There is a problem with the boundary of the Portobello CPZ area finishing at Bellfield Street and the area should be extended to the end of the Promenade. With the current proposal car parking will cascade into the streets not included.

Response: Cllr. Kate Campbell has asked for an explanation and will report back.

Problem with bigger cars.

Response: There is an issue with bigger cars and the council is looking at possible emissions or weight controls.

The problems this summer prompted Cllr. Kate Campbell to put forward a motion at Council to look at what could be done and provide some protection for next summer.

Parking currently takes place on double yellow lines and drivers double-park causing obstructions.

Response: The council does enforce parking restrictions.

A suggestion was made about a multi-storey car park at Bridge Street.

Park and Ride was raised, including a reverse Park and Ride whereby residents could park outside Portobello and use their cars for longer journeys.

Response: The existing park and ride car parks can be used by anyone so that means someone could leave their car there overnight for several days.

Why should the council provide space for residents to store their cars?

Cllr. Tim Jones raised the two categories of exemptions for the ban on pavement parking – delivery drivers and where the council designates that pavement parking is acceptable.

Why cannot the results of the CPZ be available now rather than two or three days before a committee meeting?

Response: Cllr Scott Arthur will enquire about releasing the CPZ consultations data.

At present there is 30min free parking in the town centre – will this continue?

Response: Jane Iannerelli stated that as the lead on the 20 minute neighbourhood initiative she will engage with traders and businesses in the town centre. Cllr Scott Arthur stated that where CPZs have been introduced traders have noted an increase in business.

Some private roads have been included in the CPZ proposals.

Response: Only roads that are shown as being a public highway will be part of the CPZ and it is for owners to control parking on private land. Bring these concerns out in the CPZ consultation.



Lothian Buses' drivers and other businesses use Baileyfield Road for parking – how are they to be accommodated?

Process: There is a belief that the council has already made up its mind on parking and traffic solutions. There was disappointment expressed in the previous parking consultation and there is no confidence in the results and a lack of transparency.

Response: Scott Arthur stressed that he is wanting to hear residents' views and attending the community council meeting was part of that. He is hoping to get things right especially about disability. Outside bodies will assess the equalities impact. The CPZ consultation follows a statutory framework but it needs to be clear for people.

How are people that are affected to be informed?

Response: Residents and others can check the community council website for the latest development and the council has a communications office

Community views are not listened to and ignored eg. Brunstane Road.

Response: Consultations are a survey and not a referendum – vested interest comments have to be substantiated.

Cycling: There is great support for cycling in Portobello. Cycle lanes should be extended from Duddingston Road down Southfield Place and Brighton Place. Problems on the Promenade with some cyclists creating the potential for conflict.

Other points raised: There should be more car share spaces.

Parking on pavements creates a problem for pedestrians and other users.

50,000 new houses planned to be built – we have to change habits and get people out of their cars.

Those with disabilities' voices are not heard. Greater care should be taken to recognise the varying needs of a diverse community.

Why are bike shelter costs greater than parking permits?

Changes in King's Road have made it worse for pedestrians.

396.3 Conclusion of Meeting

The Chair brought the meeting to an end by thanking all who had come and he looked forward to the future workshops and charrettes. Those interested can keep up to date with progress by accessing the Portobello Community Council website or Facebook page.

396.4 Date of next meeting:

Monday 31st October 2022



Portobello Community Council

More information about Portobello Community Council can be found at:

- a. Web: <http://www.portobelloc.org/>
- b. Facebook: www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil
- c. e-mail: secretary@portobelloc.org