



Minutes of the 375th Meeting of the Portobello Community Council held on 31st August 2020

Present: Mike Leeman, Craig McIntyre, Lee Kindness, Frazer McNaughton, John Cleland, Laurie Berrie, Rhys Nealon, Stephen Hawkins, Geoff Lynn, Ruth Wallace, Miranda Hurst, Catherine Etoe

Apologies: Esther Gray

In Attendance: Cllr Maureen Child, Cllr Callum Laidlaw, Cllr Kate Campbell, Cllr Mary Campbell and 7 members of the public

375.1 Chair's Welcome & Introductions

Lee welcomed everyone and there were introductions. Mike 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.

375.2 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed. As the last meeting was in February due to the restrictions because of COVID-19 there were some updates on the following.

- Kings Place. Cllr. Kate Campbell updated that there had been a conversation recently and that the next phase is for infrastructure to be put in place which would start within weeks. The removal of the caravans is still more complicated. A member of the public talked about how frustrating it was. Cllr. Callum Laidlaw pointed out that the Spaces for People legislation was only for infrastructure and would not be possible for it to be used to move the caravans.
- CityPlan. Lee talked about the results of the survey PCC collated and that Seafield was the place most commented on. He also talked about the working group with three other Community Councils that has been set up in order to help publicise and drive conversation about the proposed transformation of Seafield.
- Brunstane Road. The results of the PCC survey have now been published on the website. However it was pointed out that the proposals had now been postponed whilst the CEC were dealing with Spaces for People and the response to COVID-19 restrictions. Members of the public raised concerns about the lack of space on the bridge over Brunstane Road which did not allow for easy social distancing, concerns were also raised about the speed cars were going up and down, particularly in view of the top (South) end of the road being closed due to telecommunications work. Concerns were raised regarding similar constraints with Brighton Place.

The results can be viewed at <http://www.portobelloc.org/pccpn/2020/08/31/brunstane-rd-joppa-triangle-results/> or <https://bit.ly/3bqWTLR>

375.3 Speeding Issues in Portobello

Craig McIntyre and Cllr. Callum Laidlaw have been in correspondence with CEC about what can be done to alleviate speeding in the Portobello area. A particular focus on the High Street and along to Eastfield as this is where a bad accident happened to a local child recently. Cllr. Laidlaw has been told that an assessment will be done in late September/early October where options will be considered (from radar cameras to crossings and other speed deterrents. Stephen Hawkins pointed out that the speeding on Brighton Place has also increased. A member of the public who works with Police Scotland explained that the mobile speed



camera unit has been deployed in Portobello recently and whilst they could use it on the High Street (where 11 offenders were caught in one session) Brighton Place did not have anywhere they could utilise it.

ACTION : To be put onto the website to let the public know about what steps CEC and Police Scotland were taking. Craig to follow up with Cllr. Laidlaw in October to find out the results of the assessment.

375.4 The George

Craig McIntyre has been in correspondence with CEC about the fact that cladding had fallen off the George and issues around the security fence not allowing safe distancing on the pavement. This led to a temporary section being put up to the cladding. The bigger question is now around the fact that it may be becoming more delapidated and the worry is that it would be allowed to get to the point where it had to be demolished. Cllr. Maureen Child said she had been in contact with David Lodge who was pursuing this to ensure that this did not happen, she will ask for an update for the next meeting.

ACTION: Add to next agenda for an update.

375.5 Toilets Proposal

Lee gave a background. A local business has approached the council to see if they would be able to sponsor/run public toilets in Portobello in return for being allowed to have concessions attached to them. CEC (via Graeme McGartland) have agreed that this seems like a sensible proposal but it would need to be tendered in the correct manner. CEC are keen for PCC to be involved in scoping the community for their thoughts. Frazer McNaughton was keen to ensure that something concrete could be put in any proposal to the community and in order to do that there would need to be some place-making and looking at sites. Geoff Lynn wanted clarification on what the PCC responsibility would be. Lee said he thought that it would be to gauge what was acceptable and that we would need some members of the PCC to look at this and take the next steps. Geoff pointed out in a previous survey there was overwhelming support for toilet provision on and along the prom. Frazer felt that we need some kind of general proposal to go to the community with to gauge their reaction to this specifically. Stephen Hawkins, Craig McIntyre, John Cleland and Frazer McNaughton volunteered to form a group to look at this and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr. Kate Campbell pointed out that the Council were very keen to progress with something and that this was very important to them.

A member of the public suggested it need to be looked at all along the prom. A representative from the Boathouse pointed out that they were the successful bidders for the old Joppa Pumping Station and that this was hoping to be opened in 2021 and as part of the lease public toilet provision needed to be offered. He also said that it was the Boathouse that had approached CEC this proposal and would be happy to assist in any way (with the knowledge that it would have to be a level playing field for others that may tender), he believed that something long term and high quality could be offered.

Geoff Lynn said he thought we needed to continue to be agile with this and that it should be to the PCC to consult on the community in general and find out how we could be involved in the tender process.

Miranda Hurst pointed out that consideration must be given to disabled users of the prom and the potential toilets and this should be done from the start, not as an after-thought.

ACTION: Stephen Hawkins, Craig McIntyre, John Cleland and Frazer McNaughton to form sub-group to look at this and report back with an action plan at the next PCC meeting.

375.6 a Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the grant from CEC had been received for £906.74 which gives a balance of £2,269.00. The traders balance is £1259.77.

375.6 b Neighbourhood Network

Nothing to report.

375.6 c Planning



Nothing to report.

375.6 d Councillors

Cllr. Kate Campbell said that one of the hot topics she has been getting correspondence from was around policing on the prom around everything from urination to people not socially distancing. She feels that perhaps there is a misunderstanding about what the police do and wondered if there could be a discussion facilitated by PCC about how they police.

ACTION: Mike Leeman to follow up with Cllr. Kate Campbell to discuss further.

375.7 Proposed AGM Timing

Lee explained that CEC would still like us to have an AGM before the end of the year, likely in the same format as the meeting. Mike Leeman suggested that though on the face of it this meeting went well in the new online format it would be good to have at least one more to iron out any issues. Rhys pointed out that if it was in October it might prove an issue as it is the last day of the half term break. Mike suggested that we could make a separate meeting in 6 weeks. Stephen pointed out that members of the public expected the meeting to be on the last Monday of the month. It was agreed to look into and decide on a course of action which could then be publicised at the next full meeting. Stephen suggested that if and when we are allowed to meet in person we had funds to be able to hire the larger hall at the Baptist Church.

ACTION: PCC to discuss options on Basecamp to then present in public at the next meeting.

375.12 AOB

Mike Leeman asked anyone to email the secretary with any issues they had with the online meeting so we could learn for the next one.

Catherine Etoe echoed Stephen's point about speeding on Brighton Place and that the bridge area was also a tight space for social distancing and asked if the councillors could do anything. Cllr. Mary Campbell said that when the issues around the Joppa Triangle were raised Brighton Place was going to be considered separately. She will be happy to raise this and chase what may be happening.

The 375th PCC meeting was closed at 20:45

The next meeting is Monday 28th September 2020