



Portobello Community Council

By email to: committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk

Copied in: Cllr. Kate Campbell, Cllr. Alys Mumford, Cllr. Jane Meagher, Cllr. Tim Jones

26th September 2023

Subject: Deputation in Support of Motion 8.10 for Toilet and Showering Facilities in Portobello

Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Portobello Community Council to express our strong support for the motion brought forward by Cllr. Tim Jones to the Full Council meeting on September 28th, 2023. We believe that it is crucial to address the lack of toilet provision in the Portobello ward and are eager to make a deputation to emphasise our support for this important cause.

The issue of inadequate toilet facilities has consistently been a recurring agenda item at our monthly meetings, particularly after periods of good weather when the population of Portobello, already thriving, is further augmented by upwards of 3,000 visitors. As community councillors, we have diligently raised this matter during the off-season, in an attempt to gain traction and ensure the timely installation of additional services before the arrival of holidays and favourable weather conditions.

We possess an abundance of correspondence from concerned residents who have experienced the distressing situation of members of the public using their doorways, gardens, and alleyways as makeshift toilets. Furthermore, we have received numerous letters from visitors who question the lack of sufficient facilities available to them. While the temporary toilets provided this year were appreciated, their installation on August 11th, just five days before the end of the school holidays, was far from ideal. We know that this issue recurs annually during the same period, and therefore, we urge the Council to exercise better forward planning in this regard.

As a community council, we are more than willing to assist the City of Edinburgh Council in conducting feasibility studies to determine suitable locations for toilets, the timing of their installation, and the most effective means of keeping them accessible to the public. We believe that collaborative efforts will ensure the successful implementation of this initiative.

In addition to addressing the toilet provision, we commend Cllr. Jones for his proposal to establish outside showering facilities. This type of facility is increasingly sought after, not only in beachfront areas worldwide but also within Scotland. With the growing popularity of wild swimming, paddleboarding, and kayaking in our community, it is imperative that we provide a means for individuals to rinse off after using the beach. This is particularly important given the ongoing challenge of Scottish Water effluent affecting water quality at Portobello Beach.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly support the motion put forth by Cllr. Jones and kindly request that the City of Edinburgh Council collaborate with us to conduct feasibility and scoping surveys. By doing so, we can effectively plan for the provision of toilet and showering facilities in Portobello for 2024 and beyond. We believe that this investment will greatly enhance the quality of life for both residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to improve the amenities in our community.



Portobello Community Council

Yours faithfully,

Mike Leeman

Secretary, PCC

secretary@portobelloc.org