



Committee Minutes

Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 8 September 2010

Present:- Councillors Hawkins (Convener), Bridgman and Child; Inspector Cameron Chapman (Lothian and Borders Police), Honor Flynn (Craigmillar Community Council), Peter McCall (Portobello Community Council), Norrie Davies (Community Regeneration Forum), Martin Smith (Voluntary Sector Representative), Laura Plum (Voluntary Sector Representative) and David White (NHS Lothian).

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership of 9 June 2010 as a correct record.

2 Motions

(a) **Traffic Management and Urban Design in Bath Street/Straiton Place – Motion by Portobello Community Council**

The following motion by Portobello Community Council was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28

“This Neighbourhood Partnership notes:

- 1 the problem with the corner of Straiton Place/Bath Street where pedestrian safety and home owner security is diminished by the number of lorries using the corner;
- 2 the problem with deliveries to commercial premises at the foot of Bath Street and on the Promenade coming at anti-social hours in very large vehicles;

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- 3 the use of five unsightly bins placed in the street by traders at the junction of Bath Street and the Promenade;
- 4 the problems with bin and recycling collection by CEC's Services for Communities;
- 5 the use of the corner of Bath Street and Straiton Place by Scotmid articulated vehicles;
- 6 the problems of safety and road maintenance in Bath Street Lane where uncertain ownership and poor architectural design has led to potential for a serious accident.

This Neighbourhood Partnership believes:

- 1 that the quality of life for residents on Bath Street and Straiton Place is being adversely affected by the above;
- 2 that this adverse effect is unacceptable;
- 3 that the Neighbourhood Partnership exists to bring together relevant bodies to solve these sorts of problems;
- 4 that there should be a concerted effort to solve these problems by all agencies involved in the Neighbourhood Partnership;
- 5 that safety should be paramount for all residents abutting Bath Street Lane and that the ownership should be resolved as soon as possible;
- 6 that the underground bins like those provided in the Grassmarket offer an opportunity to make the streetscape more attractive.

This Neighbourhood Partnership resolves:

- 1 to bring together the relevant agencies, residents, traders and anyone else relevant to seek a resolution to the problems in the Straiton Place/Bath Street/Promenade area;
- 2 to bring together the relevant agencies, traders and residents to seek a resolution to the problems with safety in Bath Street Lane;
- 3 to seek ways to make the junction of Bath Street and the Promenade a hub for the interaction between Portobello and the Promenade;
- 4 to seek an adoption order on Bath Street Lane in order to ensure that safety can be assured for residents; and
- 5 to investigate the potential for underground disposal of waste in the area at the foot of Bath Street and the Promenade"

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Decision

To approve the motion by Portobello Community Council and refer the matter to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee for consideration.

b) Parking in Portobello and Access and Egress for Emergency Services – Motion by Portobello Community Council

The following motion by Portobello Community Council was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

“This Neighbourhood Partnership notes:

- 1 the over-parked nature of Marlborough Street, Regent Street and other streets in the Portobello area;
- 2 the risk of over-parking preventing or curtailing access by emergency services;
- 3 the diminution of quality in the urban environment caused by parked vehicles obstructing the footpath, making it difficult or impossible to use the footpath.

This Neighbourhood Partnership believes:

- 1 that the safety of residents is paramount;
- 2 that residents have a right to feel safe;
- 3 that use of the footpath is essential to creating a pleasant and liveable urban environment;
- 4 that where possible any plan should avoid displacing parking to other streets.

This Neighbourhood Partnership resolves:

- 1 to draw together proposals to ensure that Marlborough Street and Regent Street are accessible for emergency services and pedestrians in full discussion with residents;
- 2 to create an implementation plan, mindful of resources, that allows access for emergency services to be assured to Marlborough and Regent Streets and other streets with problems of over-parking in full discussion with residents.”

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Decision

To approve the motion by Portobello Community Council and refer it to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee for consideration.

3 Former Niddrie Mill Primary School

Susan Craig, City Development advised that a full survey of the building had now been carried out but that the costs involved to reinstate the property meant that this was not a viable option.

Parc had the option over the building and a range of possible options for the site was being looked at. Currently Parc were in talks with the private sector to retain the building and convert it to flats.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To advise the Director of City Development that the Neighbourhood Partnership wished to be consulted on any proposed deviation from the planning consent.

4 Portobello High School – Consultation Findings

Billy McIntyre, Head of Resources, Scott Castle, Project Manager and Ian Alexander of GM Architects gave a presentation on the outcome of the consultations in relation to the new Portobello High School. The presentation outlined the following:

- Consultation process
- Transport links
- Open space proposals
- Details of the school building

Billy McIntyre also advised that there was a remaining balance of £150,000 for off site open space improvement and the views of the Community were sought on how this should be spent.

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Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To refer consideration on the best use of the £150,000 for off site open space improvement to the Environment Forum.

5 Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund

The Neighbourhood Manager advised members that the amount of Community Grants Fund monies available to the Partnership for 2010/11 was £23,627. To agree the recommendations made in paragraph 5 and 6 of the report by the Neighbourhood Manager.

Decision

- 1) To agree the recommendations made in paragraph 5 and 6 of the report by the Neighbourhood Manager.
- 2) To note that the remaining balance for future allocation was £2,739.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

6 Fairer Scotland Fund: Report from Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership Funding Panel

Details were provided on the progress of the commissioning process together with three new recommendations for 2010/11 made by the Fairer Scotland Fund Funding Panel.

Decision

- 1) To note the action taken by the Neighbourhood Manager in consultation with the Convener detailed at paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report.
- 2) Approve the Funding Panel recommendations detailed at paragraph 4 of the report.
- 3) To note the remaining balance for allocation in 2010/11 of £168,012.
- 4) That the Neighbourhood Manager report to Board Members on the current procedures governing the allocation of Fairer Scotland Funding and the criteria in relation to the tendering process.

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(Reference – report by the East Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

7 Neighbourhood Partnership Work Plan

(a) Portobello Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership – Annual Report 2009-10

Details were provided on the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership during 2009 -10. The report outlined the main workstreams and challenges for the forthcoming year in particular:

- evidence of the progress made by the Partnership and its sub-groups in tackling the priorities included in the Local Community Plan, supported by the delivery of a more effective “partnership”.
- further improvements in its operation, local communications and efforts to enhance participation and engagement, including the development of the Partnership’s community engagement plan
- the main challenges that the Neighbourhood Partnership was likely to face in the coming year.

Decision

- 1) To note the further progress that had been achieved.
- 2) To approve the community engagement plan.
- 3) To thank all members of the Partnership Board, the community and partners for their ongoing support and commitment.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

(b) Portobello and Craigmillar Local Community Plan Review and Update

Work was currently underway to clarify the way ahead at both the strategic and operational levels including the development of new ways of working. As a result of the current uncertainty in relation to budget savings it had been decided that the life of the existing Local Community Plan would be extended until 2012.

The plan would be revisited and updated once more information on service delivery was known.

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Decision

To note that the Portobello and Craigmillar Local Community Plan would not be formally reviewed until 2011.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

(c) New East Neighbourhood Office and Craigmillar Library

A planning application had been submitted for the new office and library and it was hoped that planning permission would be granted in October and that building onsite would start early 2011.

Regular reports would be brought to the Partnership for information.

Decision

To note the update.

(d) Area Board

An update was provided on the work being undertaken by the Area Board in relation to the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(e) Community Safety Sub-Group

An update was provided on the work of the Community safety Sub-Group. Earlier priorities identified for the Safer Neighbourhood Team in Cakemuir, the Thistle Foundation and Bingham Community Centre had been successfully addressed.

Three new priority of Niddrie House, Craigmillar Castle and Portobello High School and Rosefield lunchtime littering had been identified.

Partnership working over the summer had led to a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in the Neighbourhood Partnership area which was welcomed.

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Decision

To note the update.

(Reference – brief note, submitted.)

(f) Economic Development and Employment Sub-Group

An update was provided on the following:

- The award of the SFS contract to the Cyrenians
- Thanks and appreciation to Worktrack for excellent work in Craigmillar over the last 10 years
- There would be an employability and networking lunch on 6 October
- a short audit of who was doing what in the area to maximise joint working and effectiveness would be provided
- business development services were being enhanced by the Council
- Social Enterprise Partnership proposed to hold a conference/workshop in Craigmillar in early new year
- There were continuing number of pre-planning consultations coming forward and agreed that further liaison with planning staff was required to ensure these were as effective as possible
- The Group noted that the proposed land transactions at Bio-quarter/Greendykes had been successfully completed

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(g) Environment Programme

Details of project updates for 2009/10 and 2010/11 in the Environment Programme were submitted. The East Neighbourhood had been awarded three green flag awards for Craigmillar Castle Park, Portobello Community Garden and Figgate Park.

A Green Flag celebration event for Portobello Community Garden and Figgate Park had been arranged for 26 August.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

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(h) Families, Children and Young People

An update was provided on the following:

- The Group wished an impact assessment be carried out on what reductions in the current FSF allocations would mean for funded projects and services provided in the Partnership area
- The Group had been informed of the intent to carry out a review on the impact of the loss of Instep by the Children and Families Department
- The good attendance at the summer bash event held on 2 July 2010
- Requested an impact assessment be carried out on the effect of the continued threat of closure of Castlebrae High School was having on the emotional wellbeing of young people attending the High School

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(i) Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group

An update was provided on the following:

- Community health initiative
- Young people and alcohol
- Drugs education
- Smoking prevention
- Food and health training hub
- Long-term conditions consultancy and supported self management

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(j) The Housing and Regeneration Sub-Group

The Group wished to highlight the following:

- concerns over the delay in demolishing the former Lismore Primary School
- The improvement in the situation in Cakemuir
- The need to ensure current and future housing development have adequate play provision for a range of children's ages

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(k) The Voluntary Sector

The following was reported:

- The Sector called for an impact analysis of the potential loss of FSF investment in the neighbourhood
- Required clarity on how the knowledge and experience of local organisations on local residents would influence the Council's Anti-Poverty Regeneration Strategy
- Was of the view that community development was integral to any effective and meaningful anti-poverty strategy
- Called for more transparency over the FSF Funding in the last seven months of the Fund particularly in the following areas – the identification of need, the assessment of programme proposals and the partnership decision-making.

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Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Neighbourhood Manager would report to Board Members on the current procedures governing the allocation of Fairer Scotland Funding and the criteria in relation to the tendering process as agreed at item 6 above.

(Reference – briefing note, submitted.)

(I) Parc – Update

An update was provided on the following

- House sales had been excellent in the last few months and there were now only 20 units to sell.
- Government funded works to the White House were on track for completion by the end of the year.
- Links Housing Association was expected to commence construction on Wauchope Phase 8 in October.
- A new European Funding Programme called “Jessica” had been launched and Parc had submitted two bids to the scheme.
- Parc was continuing to liaise with Children and Families in the City of Edinburgh Council in relation to the former Niddrie Mill Primary School.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by Eric Adair, Parc Craigmillar Ltd, tabled.)

8 Committee Services

The Convener and members thanked Committee Services for all their help and support since the commencement of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

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9 Date of Next Meeting

Decision

To note that the next meeting of Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership would be held on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 6.30 pm in Portobello High School.

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