

# Portobello Campaign Against The Superstore

## CONSTITUTION

### **1. Name**

The name of the group shall be Portobello Campaign Against The Superstore (PCATS).

### **2. Aim**

To safeguard and promote the vitality and viability of the existing town centre by working with the local traders in the wider issues of sustainable shopping principally by opposing unnecessary out of town major retail developments.

### **3. Objectives**

The group will fulfil the aim by:

Promoting the health and well-being of the residents in the area by encouraging sustainable shopping by using the town centre.

Involving local people in any initiative that contributes to the above;

To oppose major retail developments or inappropriate retail development;

To raise funds and receive contributions where appropriate to finance the work;

To publicise and promote work;

Open and operate bank accounts;

Make rules and standing orders for categories of members and their rights;

Organise meetings and events;

Work with similar groups and exchange information and advice with them;

Take any action that is lawful, which would help it to fulfil its aims.

#### **4 Membership**

Membership of PCATS shall be open to anyone who is resident in the greater Portobello area and who is interested in helping the group to achieve its aim and willing to abide by the rules of the group. Every member shall be over 16.

Every member shall have one vote at general meetings.

The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership to an applicant where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aims, purposes or activities of the group.

Resignation and termination of membership:

Any member of the association may resign his/her membership and the Chairperson terminate or suspend the membership of any member if, in their opinion his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the association, PROVIDED THAT the individual member shall have the right to be heard by the Management Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

#### **5 Management Committee**

PCATS shall be administered by a Management Committee of not less than three people and not more than fifteen members elected at the group's Annual General Meeting.

Committee Members must be at least 18 years old.

The officers of the management Committee shall be:

The Chairperson

The Treasurer

The Secretary

And such other officers of the group shall deem necessary at the Annual General Meeting.

The Management Committee shall meet at least once a year.

At least three Management Committee Members must be present for

the Management Committee meeting to take place.

Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote then the chairperson shall have a second vote.

Power to set up sub-groups and work parties as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.

The Management Committee shall be accountable to the members at all times.

All meetings must be minuted and available to any interested party.

All Management Committee members shall be given at least seven days' notice of a meeting unless it is deemed an emergency meeting.

The Management Committee may meet before or following the Annual General Meeting.

## **6 Finance**

Any money obtained by the group shall be used only for the group,

Any bank accounts opened for the group shall be in the name of the group.

Any cheque issued shall be signed by at least two of any three nominated signatures.

The Management Committee will ensure that the group stays within the budget.

## **7 General Public Meetings**

The committee shall call at least one general public meeting each year. The purpose of these meetings is for the group to account for its actions and consider the regeneration and development of PCATS according to the group's objectives.

The Chair of the group shall normally chair these meetings.

At least fourteen days notice of such a meeting must be given and advertised in at least two public places.

All meetings, including AGMs, must be minuted and available to any interested party.

The quorum for a General Meeting is eight of which no more than three shall be committee members..

## **8 Annual General Meeting**

PCATS shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at not more than 15 months interval.

Where possible members shall be notified personally, otherwise notice will be deemed served by advertising the meetings in at least two public places giving at least fourteen days' notice of the AGM.

The business of the AGM shall include:

Receiving a report from the Chairperson of the group's activities over the year;

Receiving a report and presentation of the last financial year's accounts from the Treasurer on the finances of the group;

Electing a new Management Committee and considering any other matter as may be appropriate at such a meeting.

The quorum for Annual General Meeting shall be at least eight persons.

Voting at the Annual General Meeting shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote then the chairperson shall have a second vote.

## **9 Alteration of the Constitution**

Proposals for amendments to this constitution, or dissolution (see Clause 11) must be delivered to the secretary in writing. The secretary in conjunction with all other officers shall then decide on the date of a General Meeting meeting to discuss such proposals, giving at least 14 days' clear notice.

Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.

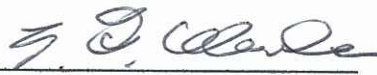
## 10 Dissolution

The group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting. Any assets shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another group with similar aims and bank account closed.

## 11 Adoption of the constitution

This constitution was adopted by the members present at the General Meeting held on Friday 31st July 2009.

Signed:

 (Chair)

Diana Cairns (Secretary)

KAREN McLEAN (Treasurer) - ON HOLIDAY.

 (Member)