

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at Dunbar Street Hall, Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen.

1. Present

Christine Burgess (Chair), Isobel Aitken (Treasurer), Katja Brittain, Trevor Stack, Clive Kempe, Dewi Morgan.

Also Present

Angus Donaldson (University of Aberdeen), Hilda Meers, Valerie Morgan, Cathy Maxwell, Kevin Guyan (Secretary), residents from Old Aberdeen concerned about the CPZ.

Apologies

Simon Barker (Vice Chair), Hamish Mackay, Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Norman Collie, Cllr Richard Robertson, Abdul Latif (Aberdeen Mosque), Gordon Mutch, Duncan McKay (AUSA).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Kevin Guyan questioned Cllr Richard Robertson's statement that Aberdeen City Council's Labour Group support a Third Don Crossing. It was agreed that the minutes should instead read "RR believed there was strong support for a Third Don Crossing". *See addendum for further information.*

After changes, February's minutes were passed.

Angus Donaldson explained that there was nothing further to report on the proposed nursery at the University.

AD also explained that the estimate of £600,000 for outreach programmes at the new library is the correct figure, although he is unsure over the length of time this will run and the proposed programmes.

ACTION: AD to investigate.

Hilda Meers expressed thanks to the organisers of March's social event, noting the positive feedback she has received from those who attended the event. Katja Brittain asked that at future events a signup sheet is available to keep track of those who attended. Christine Burgess also expressed her hope that a similar event could be organised around the Controlled Parking Zone. **ACTION:** CB to phone Doug Ritchie, ACC, to arrange an open meeting on the CPZ. Trevor Stack also expressed the need for OACC to be informed of when the formal consultation process will begin.

3. Police Report

Grampian Police were unable to send a representative, therefore no police report was available.

4. University Update

AD informed the Council that enabling work around the Fraser Noble building is continuing.

AD explained that 21 High Street has been assessed by ACC who wish to demolish and rebuild a gable. The University currently has no future plans for the building.

It was explained that the ACC has started work on the city's next Local Plan, with the University putting in

four bids. Notably, the University propose Keith Park at the Hillhead Sports Centre be returned from “green space” to “education”.

Clive Kempe asked whether any planning application has been received for the land beside the bowling green in Sunnybank. AD explained that the land belongs to ACC and has heard of no plans. **ACTION:** CK to investigate.

Trevor Stack asked whether there has been any discussion over the University using the car parking facilities at Kittybrewster Retail Park. CK noted this would not be an environmentally friendly option, with AD adding that it would not be an alternative to the CPZ.

CB questioned progress with the Green Travel Plan Strategy. AD explained that the University has finished its internal survey of staff, with the next step the consideration of a shuttle bus between King’s College and Foresterhill. Isobel Aitken asked whether First Bus could be approached to extend the 20 bus service to the train and bus stations. AD noted that the University has proposed this idea before, with First Bus not viewing the suggestion as financially viable.

Valerie Morgan asked about the numbers of people commuting between King’s College and Foresterhill. AD noted that there is a substantial number of students and staff commuting between the two campuses. HM suggested the shuttle bus could be an option for local residents visiting the hospital. AD explained that the legality of this proposal would be very difficult.

HM asked whether the University operates a “borrow-a-bike” scheme. AD noted that a small-scale project is in operation, which would be complex to expand further. TS added that there is a need for better provisions for cyclists and whether the University has ever pushed for better infrastructure for bikes. AD suggested that he is unsure whether there is currently a demand from students for better provisions for cyclists.

CK questioned whether there was any chance of the University applying pressure to site a possible Cross Rail station at Kittybrewster. **ACTION:** AD to investigate the debate around Cross Rail.

AD explained to the Council that the University has already guaranteed ACC £600,000 for the CPZ, which – should the CPZ not be rolled-out – would be returned to the University. **ACTION:** alternative travel solutions to be added to OACC’s May agenda.

Dewi Morgan highlighted the substandard finish of the chimneys on the new café on the High Street. **ACTION:** AD to investigate whether ACC’s conservation team involved in the work.

CK asked about the progress of the new Sports Centre. AD explained that it is set to open on 1 September 2009. **ACTION:** AD to forward information to OACC on joining, facilities etc.

5. Controlled Parking Zone

Nothing further to discuss.

6. Seaton Park Initiative

Hamish Mackay was unable to attend the meeting and provide further information on developments.

Cathy Maxwell explained to the Council that she is a frequent user of the park and, after meeting with the Head Gardener, feels more action must be taken to develop the park. She raised the problem of lack of

funding for shrubs, no facilities for barbeques, unwillingness of Community Wardens to patrol the remote areas of the park and the lack of signage both inside and outside the park. **ACTION:** CB to meet with the park's Head Gardener to ascertain how OACC can help. **ACTION:** funding from the Small Improvements Grant to purchase further shrubs for the park to be discussed at OACC's May meeting.

CK also expressed the need to map the paths in the park.

7. Planning Update

Nothing to report.

8. Treasurer's Report

Nothing further to report (see minutes for the AGM).

9. Correspondence

- a) Booklet on ACC's policies regarding waste disposal.
- b) Information on the Single Outcome Agreement (<http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Internet/CPandSOA/CPandSOA.asp>).
- c) The Aberedeen Local Development Plan (www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan).
- d) Letter inviting OACC to nominate a representative for Peterhead Prison's committee.
- e) Update on Community Council accounts and elections in September 2009.

10. AOCB

- CB distributed a proposed representation from OACC regarding the Draft Structure Plan. TS questioned whether OACC objects to the Third Don Crossing in principle or only partially. It was agreed that OACC object fully on the grounds that a Third Don Crossing will increase traffic, thus damaging the local community. The proposal also goes against ACC's policy of reducing private transport.
- CB noted the recent improvement in Seaton Park, notably the improved fencing. It was explained that the work was undertaken by volunteers and coordinated by the organisation Greenspace.
- CB explained that she has been asked by Shona Mutch whether OACC would like to host a coffee morning in Dunbar Street Hall. The morning could be an opportunity to share the work of OACC and raise some funding for a local cause. **ACTION:** coffee morning to be added to OACC's May agenda.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th May 2009 at the Old Aberdeen Town House.

ADDENDUM:-

After receiving an email from Cllr Norman Collie and a conversation with Lewis McDonald MSP following March's OACC meeting, it was noted that ACC's Labour Group do not support a Third Don Crossing.