

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 19 February 2008 - The Old Town House

Note of meeting

Present : Christine Burgess, Isobel M, Morag Paterson, Dewi and ... Morgan, Graham McK, ... , Clive Kemp, Graham Abraham
Councillors Jim Noble and Richard Robertson ; Hamish,,
Aberdeen University:

Apologies: Norman Collie, Gordon Mutch

CPZ (controlled parking zone) Presentation:

Doug Ritchie and Ross Scaife were welcomed by Christine Burgess

- to propose CPZ for our area
- early stages of planning
- opportunity for questions.

DR: This need has evolved from University plans to develop the new library, and the project is in its infancy. There is a legal process of 'traffic regulation order' to be followed which must precede enforcement of CPZ. The process takes 12-18 months.

Two plans identify area of coverage which is still under review and open to change.

Stage 1: Informal Consultation (additional to legal requirements). A letter would be sent to all households in CP2 area covering area, permit entitlement, hours of enforcement, and comment sheet. Report would go back to Councillors.

Stage 2: Formal legal process, with an initial statu ... stage, letter to OACC etc (including all statutory consultees). Objections would go to Council Committee, and the Final Stage of Public consultation.

Street notices would be a second opportunity for statutory consultees and a crucial stage for written objections.

Objections in writing, to the legal department. Legal Team will meet with group of objectors, and then report will be submitted to elected members to make a final decision.

Some areas may be excluded that may require to be included. When the formal stage starts nothing can be added in but the size of the zone can be reduced. The process would need to be started from scratch. Every millimeter needs to be covered : double yellow lines, voucher parking (ie relevant for Old Aberdeen), residents' areas, sections with Pay & Display or 40 min waiting (to facilitate business needs). AC still in discussion with Aberdeen University, and will probably be 3 months before legal remit is settled, after which the first stage of initial consultation would begin.

The provisional outline plan was shown: orange = decanting at a later date; green area where there are existing problems (Regent Walk and School Drive for example). The Green Area designates the proposed zone.

The proposals from Officers is that the zone would operate from 10 am to 4 pm. It is a Periphery Zone, which would allow residents' permits – one fixed and one flexible. Cost of permits: £44 per permit per year, including senior citizens. (2 zones are currently free: Foresterhill due to elected membership agreement that it would be free for 2 years only because grant funded), and Garthdee (implementation funded by RGU for a period of 10 years, of which we are into year 5, subject to review therefore in 5 ears). Permits in Old Aberdeen have been free since 1968. Elected members will decide,

Dewi asked about decision making. ACC person explained inner zones, outer zones (dependent on number of properties), and peripheral zone (as expected for Old Aberdeen). Another question re disabled spaces: would continue to have free parking as before.

Clive suggested that the times may be changed to facilitate student access to library, for example, and ACC confirmed this would be covered during the consultation period.

Simon Barker suggested that AU might offer some support to the local residents in the spirit of RGU, given the library development and changes in traffic flow, etc. Foresterhill could not have been considered as a 'new development' he pointed out. Ongoing discussions will take place and elected members will finally decide on this when it goes to committee.

Morgans asked if there was any indication at this stage as to the number of parking places, but this was deemed as rather premature. It was pointed out that the last time the High Street was 'rationalised', half the places were gone! AC went into more details regarding lines, signs etc and CB highlighted the fact that this is a conservation area and there is already street-furniture a-plenty.

Third Don Crossing was discussed, and Clive suggested we need to take the lead regarding traffic flow and taking the initiative to reduce car parking, as well as recognizing need for cleaner air, and non-drivers etc.

Issues regarding parking on Regent Walk and across the road into School Road were highlighted: one resident mentioned that at times he takes 10 minutes to walk three streets away which is a major problem for elderly and disabled drivers who are residents. This is a fairly recent issue, in the last 2/3 years.

A question was raised about the legality of disabled badges, of which there may be up to 60% abuse, where the badges and spaces have been passed down with no direct link to ability or not. New procedure means that badges are now issued for a period of 3 years only to contain this problem.

Parking on grass verges was recognized as being obstruction, and was not acceptable, but cannot be booked without a yellow line (ie kerbside restriction), and are enforceable as 'driving on a footpath'. Residents were encouraged to be in touch with the Police if worried or anxious about parking in their street.

CB affirmed the clear issues were there, and she asked what the implementation costs would be, and DR wanted to keep them out of the public domain at this stage.

Another query was to suggest that University carpark might be a solution to stop the gradual 'decanting' to the next possible free parking zone, ie to Tillydrone area. RGU for example is developing a Green Transport Plan, which AU is working to develop which will help staff and students to change their mode of transport to the University. Public transport, it was suggested, should be cheaper and more effective. 1.5 hours to work by bus is an example of how ineffective public transport is as currently perceived.

Balance of income from parking zone (after costs paid) go back to the Treasury.

Councillor .. suggested that the RGU model could be replicated here.

University of Aberdeen is registered as a charity, therefore suggested that as a result of activities of a 'charity' incurs costs to residents, results in those costs going back to the Treasury. This was highlighted as a major point: AD accepted there was much yet to understand about the process. The University can only go 'so far' towards CPZ, and realizes there is much to understand about the process. This is not 'planning gain'.

1 Minutes of last meeting: MP proposed, seconded by Dewi. It was noted that ... was absent although had been minuted as present.

2 Matters arising

- **Street lighting:** Police responded to this question: a safe walk through has been required and it is moving forward. Angela (AU) confirmed good news. The High Street lights have been worked on, and new ones will be at Hillhead, and there seems to be a delay in the High Street – Dunbar section while the budget is aligned, Police mentioned October, deadline Au responded that September or before would be most helpful and preferred. Councillor ... was asked to confirm that the money had been ringfenced in the budget to ensure that it would happen. To be reported on at the next meeting. IM had noticed that a hole had been created near the chaplaincy ... but it had been filled in, without a light!
- **Traffic meeting:** Hamish reported on a meeting: all experience shows that controls are totally ineffective. 7-900 were not re-offending, but were new offenders. So retractable bollards are being

considered as a solution, and is currently being costed. Police reported on their own activities, whereupon the numbers crept up again after their involvement and agreed that traffic management solution is required. AD reported having seen something similar in Edinburgh which works effectively.

- **Money**
- **Local Plan**
- **Neighbourhood report:** to be carried forward to next month.
- **Clock** – chimes being pursued.

3 Police update

- Police reported on their stats (shared with meeting) which showed very low activity in Old Aberdeen. Several sneak in thefts in the last month have been the main issue although low in number compared to other areas. Synopsys is 32 crimes in Old Aberdeen in the last month.

4 University update

- work has begun on the **Crown Tower** which will continue till October, pictures available on the website.
- **Regional Sports Centre**, Linksfield Road, well under way. A stand alone company set up by the university and the council.
- **Fraser Noble** building has begun.
- Building started at **Foresterhill**.
- **Bistro site:** nothing as yet occurring.
- **High Street shop:** still being marketed and looking for tenants. MP asked if there were ideas regarding finding some balance in terms of services on the High Street.
- **Toilets:** reburishment is a Council affair.
- **Dunbar site** – no movement or plans as yet.
- **Heat & Power station:** will be incorporated in the Regional Sport Centre. Councillor mentioned there is a lot of interest in H & P with a view to using it elsewhere in the city.
[CK asked about the **Renewable Centre:** **Jim Noble** said he would look into it for the next meeting.]

5 Planning update

- Lidl extension: plans to extend the supermarket. Heritage Society is currently checking it out. Hamish reported that the local pub said it would be a minor store at the back of the shop.
- Mobile Phone Mast going up in Bedford Road (out of OACC area).
- Local Plan: Clive had a CD containing changes; CF41 area is causing concern to CB as it is a 'solid area' of 'community site' which reinforces the campus notion and not that it is a living community. Residential houses can be subsequently taken over easily and redesignated. It had been agreed that two paragraphs would be included during the consultation period, and CB could not find mention of it. (IM to reimburse £5.00 cost). CK and CB would be in discussion before the objection deadline of 29 February.
- invitation to workshop 'Access to Aberdeen from the North – an integrated transport solution' on 26 February which appeared to be Third Don Crossing revisited

6 Treasurer's report

£3000 now in the bank as new improvement grant, with £1,008.19 still to be 'spent'. Two or three suggestions had been made:

- Bede House Court has responded that their piano had broken and is irreparable, and would love a keyboard, and the cost for a reasonable keyboard would be in the region of £500. This was agreed by the meeting.
- The Word Festival was another option: Shona Kirby had suggested a map for the Word Festival, showing the whole area, and including plant sales, St Machar Cathedral, some stories, OACC, Heritage Society etc. The idea was warmly received, and several ideas bounced about. CB would discuss concept further with Shona.
- Children's events: Dunbar Hall in Dunbar Street may well be happy recipient for start-up activities in the coming year which we could ring-fence.
- Notice board had been bought and was pending erection.
- There were no other ideas to consider.

7 Correspondence

Community Wardens: changes to the role of community wardens. Proposals to reduce daytime patrols, and they will be transferred from the police to the council, where there will be more focus on fines etc. Funding for Community Wardens has run out this year so they would have been without a job. Council has come up with the idea of City Wardens to include traffic, dog, environmental issues – currently under negotiation. Concern

was expressed about the changes: our community wardens were so successful and integrated into the community, and change to that would likely be detrimental to current service.

8 AOCB

- Aberdeen Central Committee Meeting: a police car parking slot has been suggested which will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow. Also spaces for 3 coaches on the Chanonry, as well as lines. CB strongly argued that OACC does not receive direct information regarding 'Roads issues' to allow discussion within the community.

Councillor ... suggested that OACC should write to Charles Lowe to raise the issue and follow it up. Councillor ,, said he would find out how we can be included in the information in a timely manner.

- Schools Estate Review: suggestions are being considered, including St Peter's. The Diocese to be getting back to the Council with regard to the status of their schools. Jo Martin would be invited to the next meeting.

- GA
- Langstane Housing have top floor facility for meetings.
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Date of next meeting : 18 March 2008