

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 18th March 2008
The Old Town House
7.25 for 7.30 p.m.

Agenda

Present Christine Burgess, Clive Kempe, Simon Barker, Graham Abraham,
Gordon Mutch, Dewi Morgan, Trevor Stack, Cllrs Collie, Robertson,
Cllr Noble, Angus Donaldson, Shaunagh Kirby, Keith Paterson, PC Scott
Longthorn, PC Steve LcKenzie, Sgt Darren Bruce
Apologies: Morag Paterson, Helen Rushmore, Isobel Aitken, David Hutchinson

Minutes of April meeting were not approved. Due to a computer problem these were not available until tonight's meeting. It was decided to wait until the April meeting to put these forward for approval.

Matters arising

Update on costs of parking permits for Old Aberdeen if new council measures are adopted. Residential parking would cost £50 & business £143.

New street lighting on the High Street is partially completed. Don St to be started 2008-2009.

Douglas Place lighting. Two lights have been out for quite a while. University said they would ensure replacement.

Total cost of retractable bollards to control traffic flow at the Southern end of the High Street is £36,000. Of this £14,000 is CCTV. Angus Donaldson of Aberdeen University asked whether relocating one of the University cameras could cover the bollards. He also said that the University would be willing to contribute to the £22,000 capital cost.

The covers have been removed from the traffic lights at the Southern end of the High Street. All agreed these lights added only confusion to road users with regard to accessibility. Nobody was sure whom if anyone had authorized the removal. Police to check.

Chimes for the Town House Clock. Not a priority but possible funding from the Heritage Trust or if there is any money left in any of the budgets, council or community council then this could be a possible beneficiary.

Local Transport Strategy: the council has already appointed Consultants with a remit to force through the 3rd Don Crossing. It is amazing with a council that purports to have run out of money can find money for consultants to continue to force through plans which have been repeatedly refused.

Discussion on zoning of University Playing Fields. Angus Donaldson said he was responsible for the zoning of the University Playing Fields to CF41. Their designation as a public

green open space was inappropriate. He continued that the University had no intention to develop this land and the playing fields were being used more than in the past.

Bede House Court has been offered £500 by the CC for a keyboard.

Schools Estate Policy – At a council education committee policy and strategy meeting the need for replacement or refurbishment of the 3 x Catholic Schools was discussed. It was hoped that St Peters would be in a good position to be retained & refurbished on its present site with possible additional use of Old Aberdeen House. The present occupancy of school places at St Peters is 96%, which should put St Peters in a strong position going forward.

University Update:

Angus Donaldson – No major announcements but works in progress.

Kings Crown Tower, Fraser Noble, Hillhead – works ongoing.

Regional Sports Centre Linksfield – Complete late 2009.

Dunbar Hall – nothing to report or update.

Angus was asked if in the case of 21-23 The High Street that the University were just managing dereliction. If the university had found no suitable use over the years would sale of this property not be more appropriate. Angus did not agree.

3 Police update:

Positive results from positive policing – mixture of uniform & plain clothes. Only 4 x incidents reported in the Old Aberdeen area over this last month (2 x vandalism, 1 x theft from a car & 1 x assault).

Darren is moving to Queen Street and his replacement is Colin Fiely.

All in the Community Council thanked Darren for his successful efforts during his time in Old Aberdeen.

4 Neighbourhood planning & engagement:

Keith gave the arrangements for the 2008-2009 plan.

Christine questioned why a longer timescale should not be put on these plans – why not 2008-2010? Keith explained these plans were really rolling plans & not for definite periods.

The use of 100% of this budget on one project such as the £36,000 for bollards at the Southern end of the High Street was questioned by Clive - however the consensus of those present was that physical control of traffic at Southern end of High Street was necessary. This was a safety measure fully supported by the university.

Planning Update:

Clive stated there was little to report.

The Garage on College Bounds had been turned down.

University had a tree to cut down at Kings – no issues.

21-23 The High Street had been discussed earlier.

A letter has been received from the council stating amendments to & modernization of the planning process.

Treasurer's report

Isobel was not present.

A letter had been received from Charles Low at Aberdeen City Council requesting our audited accounts.

7 Correspondence

Cove & Altens CC – re closure of Doonies Farm.
Aberdeen City Environmental Forum
Taxi Card Revised Fares
Letter from Peter Leonard – Community Engagement In Neighbourhood.
Review of Community Councils Development Programme (6/03/08)
Consultation with Community Council – Central Area (10/03/08)
Scottish Government Questionnaire seeking views on CC and ASCC (12/03/08)
City Council Agendas (14/03/08)
Froghall/Powis/Sunnybank Key Contacts Group
Aberdeen City Council – Audit of Best Value and Community Planning
Planning within Central Area (5/03/08)

8 AOCB:

Dunbar Street Hall. Gordon stated that there had been more money raised by bag packing at Sainsbury's. No progress on getting contractors to progress the works. The noticeboard will go up when we get some better weather.

The University of Aberdeen writers festival – The Word is on again this year in May. The program is already set but maybe next year we should look at some community involvement.

Website: Dewi stated that the OACC website was up and running. It was agreed that the constitution, minutes of CC meetings, contacts and member details should be displayed. The website is still under construction but is available at [HYPERLINK "http://oldaberdeen.org.uk" http://oldaberdeen.org.uk](http://oldaberdeen.org.uk)

Date of next meeting : 15th April 2008