

Old Aberdeen Community Council
Tuesday 15th August 2017, 7.30pm
Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Present: Isobel Aitken - OACC
Teresa Harwood - OACC
Dewi Morgan - OACC
PC Lyon - Police
David Philips - First-bus
Cllr Hutchison
Cllr Grant
William Campbell
Emma Morrice

Apologies: Gordon Mutch
Lekky Shepard
Trevor Stack
Alan Whyte

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes were accepted without change

Police update:

Since last meeting, 27 recorded crimes in old Aberdeen such as 9 thefts (Spar) 8 acquisitive crimes, 4 road traffic offensives. Positive education in crime. Couple of incidents at Uni, known theft of wallet. Police thanked for their time and left meeting (19.42)

UoA

Alan Whyte not available but sent an update by email:

Pre application notice for science teaching hub will be this year.

Hillhead development on going with repairs etc.

69 Don Street development - removed wall, roof and floor.

Townhouse scaffolding gone.

15, 17 High St – repairs due to be finished this month.

110 High Street. International Centre will have a new drop-in centre.

Butchart is to be used Music and Project Search in the new academic year.

Teaching space for internship program around next month (doesn't not mention where specifically possibly Elphinstone).

AUSA rep update

Lewis McLeod: mentioned freshers week, evening events, working with fundraisers, events also in city centre, Clyde challenge fund; boost student gardens, community allotments as well.

Pulling new ideas for projects from community s well.

Torcher parade will be in October.

Seaton park update:

Green Flag judges visited garden unannounced - community approved of this way of inspection instead of set routes and dates for inspection. Positive report of park.

HMO issues:

11 Orchard Walk – licence renewal application: previously, licence renewal was objected by community, property is now up for sale.

3 The Orchard – new licence application: Of 61 properties within the Census Output Area, 12 are HMOs. OACC objected on the basis of excessive HMO density.

39 Kings Crescent (5 bed HMO): large property split in two w/ a current HMO application but no knowledge of how it has been split – not conducted via a planning application but 2nd entrance on first floor. No idea of how HMO licences was applied for since technically only HALF the property is applying for an HMO licence. HMO offices say than the HMO application is acceptable but doesn't answer the planning issue, issues of fire safety and entrance allocation. Doesn't actually state which floors are coming under the HMO licence. HMO must have its own entrance.

Historically had an entrance on the first floor but this entrance has now been reinstated. The HMO application doesn't not state which entrance would be used.

Consultation on proposed HMO density limitations: Report should be available tonight or tomorrow on website. Dewi M to attend and provide delegation on behalf of OACC.

Councillors:

Great Aberdeen Run route, the road barrier at Don St / Cheyne Rd has been removed – all shrubs removed and road paved over with a rather pathetic replacement of one sapling in the middle. Cobbles more hazard on fun run route than trees. Council helps pay some cost of run, company raises money as well. Officers engagement needed, lack of engagement of council to local community.

Granite Fight factory: December 2015 installation of a gate blocking a council owned lane. Issue still not resolved. Cllr Hutchison to introduce a motion to full council.

A large number of bins are being left on roadside in the vicinity of the Fight Factory. There appears to be an issue with access to rear gardens on the 'Fight Factory' side of the lane.

First-bus:

Some amendments made to reflect demands for more efficient public transport. Road works still a problem for timekeeping.

New ticket payment app available in Aberdeen. Trying to attract new customers

Q: Will parking area that was to be sold for student accommodation now be available for additional parking to take cars off the adjacent streets?

There is presently an investigation whether to turn it into additional office space for First.

Q. Why is entrance to advocates road blocked?

Done to prevent drivers using it as parking.

David Philips left meeting 20:28.

Planning updateNew planning applications:

- St Peter's Studios, ongoing.
- 7 High Street: neighbour is fine with extension, objection removed.
- 15 High Street: community council objected to public house use.
- 113 High Street; Adding a bathroom new PVC windows not done with planning permission by previous owner with new owner replacing PVC. No objection from OACC.

Ongoing planning applications:

- 6 Cheyne Road – a planning application for a small house extension and an additional, large garage was rejected a few months ago. A garage/shed is now being built within the ‘permitted development’ rules.
- 49 University Road Replacement door UPVC, OACC objected on the basis that we wanted the full Committee to make the decision - acceptance of UPVC within conservation area would allow a mandate for further similar changes. However, the Planning Officer objected under delegated powers.

It was discussed that it would be helpful if there was a document to advise all home owners in the conservation area about the expectations and obligation of living in a conservation area.

Planning Appeals:

- Froghall: major student accommodation refused
- 66 Tillydrone Avenue; 5/6 bed HMO refused by ACC but appeal was upheld.

City councillors update

Full council meeting next week, chief executive proposing a major council restructure, - restructure of the committees as well as departments.

While Removal of fly tipping is still being serviced, oversized uplifts are not, problems with bins not being emptied/recycling. Uptake of recycling has improved in some areas but fell in others.

Orchard Brae, new school on Danestone area for complex learning.

Community Hub in Tillydrone – demolition of old shopping centre in next few months

Council been proactive regarding high rise towers in Aberdeen. No issues of the sort found in Grenfell tower.

Q: Mitchell Hospital Trust; at previous community council meeting councillors’ advised they were to be taken off the trust – belief that they were no longer required.

It was now clarified that the Mitchell Hospital Trust was still in existence.

CLlr Hutchison noted trees in Sunnybank Rd cut down.

Treasurer’s Report

No payments in or out in the last 2 months

Past Meetings:

Forthcoming meetings:

Civic Forum Tuesday 29th August 7pm

Community council Forum 4th September @ 7pm

Seaton Park Parkfest 2017 10th September

AOCB:

Problem with the sweeping leaves off street - not picked up and just left. Problems with sand as well.

Email from Karen Finch, opportunity for community councillors to receive first aid training. Dates of classes available: 25/29/30 September.

Next meeting 19th September @ Old Town House