

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 7.30 pm *Revision 1*

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

1. Present and apologies

Present: Gordon Mutch (chair), Trevor Stack (minutes), Christine Burgess, Dewi Morgan, Lekky Shepherd, Isobel Aitken, George Wood, Jacinta Birchley, Paul Foy, Ramsay Milne (ACC), Ross Grant (ACC), Michael Hutchison (ACC), David Adam (First Aberdeen), Genna Clark (AUSA), Holly Bruce (AUSA), Danny Mckay (Evening Express), Resident A
Apologies: James Noble (ACC), Nurul Hoque Ali (AMIC)

2. Minutes of previous meeting approved with minor amendments.

Matters arising: None

3. Police update

Police unable to attend due to ongoing situation, but reported a number of break-ins to sheds around Don Street.

4. First Bus Aberdeen presentation (depot manager David Adam)

- No. 20 to change back to previous route via Schoolhill, since getting held up in Torry.
- Re. student development at rear of property – along King’s Crescent, explains that still waiting for planning permission.
 - In response to query about parking spaces, manager argues that plans provide for same number of parking spaces as will be lost as FirstBus will be making up the shortfall in spaces nearby.
 - In response to query about car access, replies that workers cars currently do not share access via King Street entrance, though will need to.
 - TS asked whether concerned about likely increase in resident complaints about noise and other issues if increases number of residents in proximity. Manager replies that people will make own choice about whether or not to live beside bus depot.

5. Seaton Park update, including floods

- Significant flood damage but enormous effort to assist by Friends of Seaton Park, as well as student volunteers and others.
- Friends now have Charity status, and funding proposal is ready for Green Flag competition.
- Cakefest will be 19 March and Parkfest on 11 September.

6. Draft HMO overprovision consultation report

DM has received draft of report. Questionnaire not well-designed for statistical analysis, but results are somewhat polarised between those who want no restrictions and those who want 10-15% cap. Draft response will be circulated for discussion among OACC members.

7. Orchard Walk – unadopted land? (PF)

PF explains that neighbours had raised concerns about possible flooding due to leaves blocking drains, and ACC had replied that they were not responsible because the land is unadopted, even though there are road markings and bins along the street. RG agrees to investigate. RM suggests that they could ask for adoption though it would have to be at adoptable standard – possible cost implications for owners.

8. Planning issues

- 7 St Machar Place: Previous planning application refused but now re-applied, though includes several elements which were previously rejected by Reporter.
- 635 King St: late HMO renewal – DM notes that there is only 1 bathroom for 6 bedrooms, and GC agrees that inadequate for students – AUSA trying to raise standards of HMO student residence.
- 37 St Machar Drive: extension requested but clearly not with intention of HMO conversion.
- King's Crescent student accommodation: JB notes (and GC agrees) that with downturn in oil, there is currently surplus of student-gearred accommodation on the market, and this should be taken into account when considering application. However, RM notes that the state of the market cannot be taken into consideration in a planning application – this is risk of developer – and GC notes that demand may fluctuate anyway in the future.

9. UoA update

No representative present.

10. AUSA reps update

- HB reports forthcoming meeting of Student-Community Partnership, to which inviting 1 representative from each community council, though Resident A notes that Old Aberdeen is primary neighbourhood for UoA campus and should have greater representation. HB responds that they do not want to increase numbers too much, since variety of different stakeholders need to be represented, and will become unmanageable and possibly unbalanced if any one stakeholder has too many representatives. HB and GC agree to take issue back to committee regarding Old Aberdeen Heritage Society representative, in addition to OACC representative.
- Litter pick has been organised for Old Aberdeen. Offers volunteers for Seaton Park clean-up. Torch Parade will be 19th March.

- GC reports that Student-Community Partnership is upgrading website, following Newcastle's model.
- No movement on Butchart since UoA capital plan is on hold pending outcome of Scottish elections.
- HB explains in response to query that Partnership is in process of completing strategy document, designed to improve cooperation between UoA, RGU and NESCol, and other parties in city including ACC and community councils.

11. City Councillors' update

- MH reports that section of pavement off Spital is being adopted, and will circulate notice of statutory consultation on proposed changes to the school zone boundaries for Sunnybank School and Hanover Street School.
- RM notes that Netherdon owners have put up Private Property notice to block pedestrian access to view the plaque on the bridge, which ACC may dispute, as well as chopping down UoA-owned trees for wood-burning stove.
- RG finds that pockets within ward have no representation from community councils, especially Seaton and Linksfield, though there are some recent neighbourhood groups. He is addressing road safety concerns especially with a view to keeping the speed limit on new road to 30 mph.
- Concerns expressed about arrangements for pedestrian crossings in vicinity of Third Don Crossing roadworks, especially around Tillydrone roundabout. Objected that TDC is taking much longer than anticipated.
- RG to investigate state of play with Donside path between Seaton Park and the bridge.

12. Treasurer's report

- Finances are healthy.

12. Reports of other meetings

- None

13. Forthcoming meetings

- Community Council Forum on 5 February.

14. Correspondence

- Greenspace and Wellbeing Survey has been circulated, with a deadline of 8 February.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 16 February 2016, Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

16. AOCB