

# Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
7.30pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

## Minutes

### 1. Present and apologies

Present: Liina Roostoja, Resident A, Ronald Leith, Gordon Mutch (Chairman), Shona Mutch, PC Jake Cruickshank, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Cllr Michael Hutchison, Lewis MacLeod, Jenny Killin, Lorraine Grant, Isobel Aitkin, George Wood, Cllr. Ross Grant  
Apologies: Dewi Morgan, Alan Wight, Teresa Harwood,

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

15. AOCB: Tillydrone Community Trust – amended to remove *the effects of the Wallace Tower development on the nearby conservation area*

Minutes were approved: proposed Isobel Aitken, seconded Lorraine Grant

### Matters arising:

20 the Chanonry: Door step and gutters had been removed. GW reported that these have now been reinstated. There was no damp proofing between gutter and house and there was water ingress, builders have now repaired the issue.

### 3. Police update:

27 crimes committed in Old Aberdeen, 7 have been reported to procurator fiscal. Varied nature of crimes but the 2 sexual assaults on students in Seaton Park are giving cause for concern. Seaton Park has had extra patrols. Hillhead Halls have always been a hotspot for crimes. Household security and personal safety, especially with the onset of darker nights should be highlighted.

LG asked if camera at bus gate on Bedford Road had been installed. Yes

Resident reported graffiti at Kings Crescent /Jute Street area.

### 4. Changes to Waste recycling in Old Aberdeen – Presentation by Liina Roostoja

New bins for recycling are being rolled out to improve quantity of waste being recycled. Student areas underperform in the recycling statistics; it is also hoped it will improve cleanliness of streets. Bins are being rolled out to tenement flats, student residences, multi-storeys, then rolled out to city centre. 2017 will see the start of the roll out to householders. These new recycling bins will tie in with new processing plant being built in the city. Households will have 3 bins, the new bin will be same size as others but black bin will be replaced with smaller bin.

The question was asked as to why is recycling not being forced on social housing developments?

LR said the factor needs to accept recycling bin, it's not something the council can force on private landlords.

Individual households are provided with 3 bins but these are not always used appropriately. Communal bins on the street could be the solution, to tidy up the area, eg King Street.

Progress is being made in the Powis area where each house did have several bins.

Changed to Communal bins and the area is much tidier

Recycling education teams are present at public events throughout the city to engage with the public.

Large items can be uplifted at a cost but have to be left lying on the street for several days. It was suggested this service should be free.

Liina and the Councillors took note of the various suggestions and will report back to the council

#### 5. UoA update:

Chimes on the clock at Kings College have been silent for over 4 years. They were being switched off for exams and events, this caused problems as they were out of sync with time on clock.

#### 6. AUSA reps update:

Schools outreach project in the pipeline. Encouraging Senior School pupils to go to University and giving them an insight into University life.

Shared Planet Café – in the chaplaincy open to local community starts Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to have a plate of soup at reasonable price.

Food waste event to be held on Campus,

Campaign in pipeline to put pressure on the University for lower accommodation prices.

New CEO of AUSA now in place, Margaret Patterson would like to attend Community Council meeting at some point. She was invited to attend.

Anti-harassment campaign to be launched: This will start as an online campaign to get Students to buy in to this initiative. Sports clubs will be asked to sign up to this campaign and behave accordingly. Reclaim the night event will be part of the in town launch – physical launch. Discussions with the police will be on going as part of their planning partnership meeting

Discussion regarding student accommodation: Students are having problems with the commercial hall providers. Landlords are not interested in getting involved with council group heating projects, which could result in cheaper bills for students.

Some landlord regulations don't apply to students.

A common occurrence is deposits not being returned, these do not have to be lodged in a safe deposit – this would happen in any other tenancy

Mental health, 1 suicide case in last 6 months. A task force has been set up to look at providing different levels of support. Training can be given for counselling. AUSA still run nightline service 8pm -8am and are discussing funding with AU.

8 in 10 university students report mental health issues during time at Uni.

No academic advisor for each student now, so don't have people to support the students. Different departments work in different ways to support students, no overarching structure. Academic staff are under pressure due to their work load and support of student's welfare adds extra pressure and they are not trained in this area.

#### 7. Seaton Park update:

Crocus planting Friday, Saturday, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 10-3pm. Those interested should meet at the fountain in the park.

A large concrete block has appeared on the pavement at the Don Street entrance to the park. Councillors will report this and hopefully have it removed.

#### 8. Primary schools provision plans for Tillydrone / St. Peter's:

Update from Councillor Ross Grant: Two options - shared campus on the old St Machar primary site, or move Riverbank to a new build at St Machar Primary and St Peters move to Riverbank.

Formal consultation from 24<sup>th</sup> October for 6 weeks, meetings in both schools. St Peters school parent council will be offered a visit to Riverbank to see the facilities. If there is an alternative proposal that parents want to propose, then the city council will listen.

Meaningful engagement.

GM asked why there was not a third option. Refurbishment of the present building.

Council say that staying in the building at St Peter's is not really a good option as the fabric of the building is in poor condition. GM pointed out that this may be the preferred option of the community.

St Peter's staff and parent commitment is very strong.

Councillor Ramsey Milne stated that St Peters was at 150% of capacity.

Resident asked - Will Brexit have a bearing on this? School roll might not be so high in the future. The school bursting at the seams may only be a short-term problem.

GM will speak to Jo Martin and report back on thoughts of school community. Results of this consultation will be submitted to education committee in January 2017.

#### 9. Third Don crossing – faults + bus gate on Bedford Road:

Faults George still pursuing ACC.

Bus gate - residents and businesses now getting upset and wish it to be removed. LG said you have to adapt your travel arrangements. All disappointed but opening won't help traffic congestion. Legislation in place and it needs to be policed.

Berryden corridor should have been built concurrently with the bridge.

The present congestion isn't caused by the bus gate its caused by the bridge.

RM said Berryden Corridor supposed to be finished 2019 need to organise compulsory purchase and engineering work.

RG has arranged to walk the length of the site with officers to look at all issues that have been raised and snagging jobs. This will happen at the end of October.

#### 10. Liberty student residences on Don Street – noise disturbance:

Liberty flats are mainly leased to RGU students. Complaint made to Community councillor regarding people being kept awake at night by noise. Contact liberty direct but also notify council so they have a log of complaints. This will be referred to when HMO licence is due for renewal.

Police can be contacted if there is a problem with noise. They have powers issue warnings and if necessary confiscate music playing equipment.

11. Planning issues:

HMO 8 Cheyne Road: Letter to be submitted to planning. GM to submit if near deadline date.

Tree pruning, Tillydrone Ave: Application submitted by the University to prune trees on the communal lawn in the crescent. Application states the trees are covering street lights but resident stated that they are a good distance away. Tree officer does not have time to carry out site visit and takes these applications at face value. Councillor Ramsey Milne will speak with planning officer.

12. City Councillors' update:

Powis Community Centre now finished after refurbishment. New management committee to be formed and should be in post at the end of the year.

Food bank in Seaton has been moved to Garthdee. There is still urgent need for help for people in this area. Discussions are on going regarding hosting foodbank in Powis Community Centre to service the whole area.

A meeting is being held in Seaton on Monday to try to set up community council/ community network. Not had one for 10 years. Lots of disparate groups who would benefit from CC as it would pull things together.

Kings Crescent fight club issues - no update.

Application for student flats on St Peters Street. Possibility of a new planning application being submitted for this rejected proposal. The position of the buildings on the site will be altered. Residents stated this is not good news.

66 Tillydrone Avenue, application for HMO licence. This application has been recommended for approval by planning officers.

14 Chanonry, change of use. This application has been recommended for approval by planning officers.

13. Treasurers report: £716.88 in bank. Latest edition of newsletter has gone to print and will be available in the next couple of weeks.

14. Reports of other meetings attended & forthcoming meetings:

GM will attend Tillydrone Community Development trust later this month.

The date of the next Community Council Forum is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November

15. Date and venue for next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> November, Town House, Old Aberdeen

16. AOCB: Isobel thanked Shona for being minute secretary over these past few months. GM stated that a student would be taking over the role.