

Old Aberdeen Community Council  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
7.30pm  
Old Aberdeen Townhouse

**1. Present and Apologies**

In attendance: Gordon Mutch (GM), Isobel Aitken (IA), Theresa Harwood (TH), Cllr Dell Henrickson (DH), Cllr Michael Hutchinson (MH), Cllr Jim Noble (JN), Alexander McLellan (AMc), Alan Wight (AW), Lewis McGill (LMg), Emma Morrice (EM), David Adam (DA), Lewis Macleod (LM), Helen (H), Local Resident (LR)

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Dewi Morgan.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and discussed. IA proposed minutes, TH seconded. Minutes approved.

**3. Police update**

Representative unable to attend due to a call-out in the area. GM updates: 20 crimes in the area over last month, of those 8 have pertained to theft, 3 road traffic, and 3 minor breach of peace. Campaign has been ongoing to clamp down on speeding traffic and checking people's insurance, now charging 14 people that were stopped over the period during that campaign. GM notes that this is a normal month for this area, nothing major, and notes police are keeping up patrols at Seaton Park, iterated that this is positive for both the community and students alike.

**4. University of Aberdeen Update**

AW notes work ongoing as part of summer refurbishment. Hillhead is behind where it would ideally be, similarly the Science Teaching Hub project – finalisation of report to University ongoing. GM asked about sports facilities at Hillhead centre, AW noted still struggling, however is technically do-able. AW notes chimneys and windows on High Street being repaired following query from IA.

**5. AUSA Update**

LM provides an update on AUSA activities over the last month, and further notes that the new team of full-time sabbatical officers elected in March will be beginning their term of office on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**6. First Bus Update**

DA provides an overview with regards to upcoming changes:

- Proposed alteration to route of the Number 20 service, meaning that the route will go down to Torry following Gallowgate and Union Street, and will serve Broad Street again following completion of works in the area.
- 8/9 routes operating extended to serve Northfield.
- Route 19 in Tillydrone changing from every 12 minutes to every 15 minutes.

H questions if there will be a consultation on these proposals and notices on buses to inform users. DA confirms that there are no notices on buses until proposed changes are confirmed and that there will be a consultation. H asks if consultation could be publicised on buses and further queries numbers 20 service reliability considering there is heavy traffic near Torry. DA notes traffic levels across whole city are lower. H notes it was incredibly difficult when the route previously went to Torry, and times were not reliable. GM asks for confirmation that this is simply a proposal. DA confirms. H reiterates the importance of a reliable service – noting that the current 20 service can be

up to twenty minutes late. IA notes that the drivers are sometimes making themselves slightly early. DA states that there are warnings on buses to warn drivers if they have been remaining static with engine on for too long. FirstBus look at every route with a system that tracks services to ensure reliability, 95% of buses leaving on time is the target set.

DA clarifies that 20<sup>th</sup> of August is when the proposal will go forward to traffic commissioner and public transport unit, a consultation will then follow. Notes that there is only one other bus that currently goes to the area in Torry that the new 20 route is proposed to follow – all the way up to Balnagask Road. GM notes it may be expedient to route the service in this way for FirstBus, but does not best serve needs of the community – echoing H's comments on reliability concerns. It is noted that the public will be able to feed in to consultation, and that the traffic commissioner has the final say. AMc and MH will work together to feed the concerns raised at this meeting to the Public Transport Unit and invite any other concerned residents to get in contact with them.

### **7. Seaton Park Update**

This update was provided as a written document and was presented to the meeting by GM. GM notes great progress has been made with regards to Seaton Park.

### **8. Planning Issues:**

*Fight Factory* – MH notes he emailed to confirm legal checks are complete. Noted that this issue, including the removal of the fence, will have to go to a full council as it covers remits spanning two committees. MH bringing motion to council to proceed with this. H asks to give the lane a name. TH notes it previously did have a name. GM thanks MH for his work, but also notes that often people's relationship with the council can be, at times, tedious. This has been demonstrated through the process with the Fight Factory issues – even with councillors asking questions it has taken a long time.

*Cruickshank Botanical Gardens* – GM notes they have had more letters on the 'Ancient Wall at Risk' than most other topics. Notes consensus was that in general they would not like to see a big breach. Alan Wight says that he will feed this back and ensure that trustees are aware.

*Planning Application: 7 High Street, Extension to the Chaplaincy* – GM notes that Dewi had sent an email to CC members and they would be looking to object to this on the basis they would be looking to use the share of wall on the garden.

*Planning Application: Brig House, Netherdon* – Felling of 11 trees. Dewi's comments noted that he had spoken to the owners on what, at first, seemed like a very serious application but has been reassured following these conversations. The 11 trees are identified as rubbing on phone lines or overhanging on below property. OACC unlikely to comment on this.

*St Peter Studios* – Planning application to put graphics up on the side of the building of the Hello Student accommodation. The graphic has the flowers used in the Hello Student branding. GM, TM, and HM note that this does not fit with the aesthetic of the area and raise issues around advertisement consent. Proposals were also for illuminated lights. OACC will be objecting to this application.

### **9. City Councillors Update**

JN notes new council, full council meeting tomorrow, changes in administration re: composition of various committees, notes administration came as a surprise. Short period after election where there are few meetings other than licensing and planning, most new councillors getting acquainted with online training for various committees. Still ongoing work within the area (casework etc.)

AMc notes a resident had been in contact about University High Street parking (in what is a controlled parking zone) – scope to remove some double yellow line to create a new parking space, potential for this to come to fruition (to the right-hand side of the townhouse). GM asks when we will know who is on which committee. Confirmed it is available online.

JN notes a number of outside bodies that councillors sit on and how they are not necessarily required on these.

MH notes HMO report being moved back to the full council in August, MH has asked that this go back to CHI committee in September, or full council in September/October time to ensure that students have a fair chance to have their voices heard with regards to deputations, and provides an update on progress on wheelchair accessible vehicles.

#### **10. Treasurers Report**

£744.70 in bank. Cheques went out for newsletter and website hosting.

#### **11. Reports of other meetings attended & Forthcoming Meetings**

IA was unable to attend the forum, unsure if Dewi could make it. Boundary meetings with Karen Rennie ongoing.

#### **12. Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

August 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm in Old Town House

#### **13. AOCB**

Meeting is closed.