

Old Aberdeen Community Council
Tuesday 16th May 2017
7.30pm
Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Present:

J. Clifton
Ronald Leith
Alan Wight (University of Aberdeen)
Dewi Morgan (OACC)
Gordon Wood (Heritage Society & resident)
Alexander McLellan (councillor)
Dell Henrickson (councillor)
Michael Hutchison
Gordon Mutch (Chairman OACC)
Isobel Aitken
George Wood
Jack Cruickshank (Police Scotland)
Katy Reid (Police Scotland)
Lekky Sheperd
Lina Nass (student & minutes)

Apologies:

Teresa Harwood (OACC)
Ryan Houghton
Jim M
Lewis MacLeod (Aberdeen University Students Association)

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Discussion about councils encouragement to cycle on designated pavements
GM reiterates complains about state of cycling lane at St. Machar roundabout, AML will talk to Aberdeen City Council.

Proposed by LS

Seconded by GM

Minutes approve

3. Police update

JC says that 17 crimes have been reported since the last meeting (including shoplifting, threatening behaviour and six detective crimes) and reports that Shoplift initiative is running. JC says that concerns about cyclists on pavement have been passed on to Kittybrewster Inspector. JC asks if there are any issues, GM happy to see that patrols are continuing in Seaton Park as major crimes have been happening in this area.

AML reports that children are climbing on the underside of Diamond bridge next to slide, JC says he will enquire about this.

4. University of Aberdeen update

AW says that summer refurbishments are main focus right now, Fraser Noble refurbishment requires extra covers. A planning application for the Regent Walk improvements have been launched today (May 16th), but the Hillhead Centre application has not been submitted yet, but two

sport pitches will be transformed for other purposes. AW says that size of current changing facilities are very small thus UoA looking into building 8 changing rooms. AW updates that the Science Teaching Hub will report back on June 16th, the size will be less than a third of original plans. GM asks about financial situation of the refurbishments, AW says UoA is waiting on a report-back about the timber conditions of roof for one facility.

5. HMOs and ACC draft HMO policy

DM reports that the HMO policy draft status is up for consultation, the process is online, the consultation is neutral and neither badly structured nor biased.

GM says it would be appropriate to respond as the OACC but also encourages individuals to respond as such.

DM says that he has already noticed that one of the maps are not complete, that the maps are not available to the public and that the Community Partnership Planning maps aren't available, but any proper policy should list all the streets that will be affected by the policy, DM proposes that these concerns should be in final draft. DM also notes that it is problematic that the consultation is mainly digital, paper replies are possible but there are no PDFs available to print of. GM agrees that this is inadequate. DM says that other community councils have concerns as well, but the main issue right now is passing the policy and then it can be added-on later.

GM says that for the first time there is a organised process for HMO applications. DM reminds OACC about cases where HMO permission has not been revoked even after multiple concerns have been raised. DM reports that we was impressed by the Licensing Committee meeting.

6. Seaton Park update

LS updates that the main focus is planning the Park fest in September, a positive meeting with Police took place yesterday. Last year was a great success, around 2000 attendees, make sure that this year parking and access problems won't be repeated. LS reports that fruit trees are flourishing.

GM notes that Seaton Park is busier which is very positive, LS agrees and says that they might get money for an outdoor pingpong table. It was agreed upon that it will be out of metal and thus won't be able to be set on fire.

GM further notes that Cruickshank gardens gets more visitors, especially on the weekends and the new opening hours, AW adds that physical changes in last year has made it more attractive and less intimidating; and reiterates the proposal to open up some part of the road, GM answers that this issue shall be discussed in due course.

7. New planning applications

170454, St Peter's Lane:

Trees are overgrowing a telephone pole opposite new St Peter's Studios, request to take down four trees but no comment in application about replacement of trees. DM acknowledges that something has to be done, concerns Spital No. 6, 8 and 10, RL adds also the Welfare building and flats looking at the student residence block. AM asks who has applied, DM responds that it is an agent for the property. DM stresses that new trees should be planted, but as there are numerous wires in the area it is difficult to find a suitable location. AM suggests an engineering solution, DM says that trench cable along the wall would be the best solution. GM says that ACCC should disapprove, IA agrees. DM says he is hesitant to object because opinion of residents needed, RL says he will talk to some people. LS asks about the specific number of four trees, DM answers that is the number of out-going wires from he pole. GM asks about date that request has to be answered, DM replies that there is no comment date but it should be resolved as soon as possible.

170523, demolition of High Street toilet block.

170524, High Street Café:

DM reminds that OACC has denied previous application as it did not fit in with the rest of the street/Aberdeen. DM updates about the changes in the new application: wooden windows, softer colours, etc. AM asks if the weather will change the colour of the timber, DM and AW agree this will not happen. DM is generally happy about the new application but there is an issue where one window faces other window but it will probably be alright, all in all no objections. RL asks for internal plans, it was clarified that kitchen will be downstairs with sitting area upstairs. AW says he can check if Hydro Sub-station belongs to University or the hydro company. DM wonders how the Lane became part of the package for FOI act and that no clear answers were given, and OACC was not consulted about the lane. MH says he tried to get an update but no response, will try to speak to responsible person.

AM asks if there will be a screen in front of the bins, DM confirms this.

AM warns about possible issues with grease and the like; OACC agrees to ask them to make sure there will be a clear procedures to prevent a mess with grease.

170526, retrospective application for replacement door and window in University Road:

DM reports that the new door is plastic, white and quite heavy, new window is also very unlike the original one. GM says there is nothing that can be done retrospectively about this.

GM says that as this is a conservation area, the council should just disapprove the applications.

DM points towards the legislation that if modernising is happening at a building items have to be replaced with something more like the original.

It is agreed that OACC should look into provisions for penalising people for retrospective applications and get a consensus on how to deal with retrospective applications.

On-going planning applications:

DM updates on all applications awaiting decisions; Cheyne Road 6 has been refused, BT Engineering depot Froghall appeal refused, 66 Tillydrone Avenue (retrospective HMO increase from 5 to 6) still awaiting decision according to MH.

DM concludes by reminding OACC about outstanding applications to be considered.

8. City Councillors update

AML introduces himself, says that he is obviously new to role but happy to work with community council to further the area and hope they bring issues to his attendance.

DL says there is little to add, but he is also happy to work together and come along to meetings.

MH reports about 39 King's Crescent decision.

DM asks about the the City Council and committee allocation rules, MH replies that each party will be allocated a certain number of spaces and then it is decided within the party group who will take up positions on committee; MH notes that it will be tried to have an overlap between City Planning and Community Planning Committee.

9. Treasurer's report

GM says there is nothing to report - same amount of money as last month.

10. Newsletter printing and delivery

DM urges people to pick up newsletter as soon as possible, GM agrees to pick up from him right now. GM asks how many areas are currently unfilled, DM replies 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10, with GM covering 4 and LS covering 5. DM acknowledges that the newsletter is slightly delayed so that HMO issue could be covered.

11. Reports of other meetings attended and forthcoming meetings

DM reports back from Community Council Forum (CCF) meeting on May 15th. While West allows for Community Council involvement, North and South are opposed, minutes from these meetings are not even circulated to CCF facilitator. DM notes that Community Councils are being treated as trouble makers, and while NHS, fire brigades, social services etc have representatives on the

committee community council don't have any. GM asks if Jonathan Smith is on Council, but DM reiterates that minutes are not being issues.

GM reports back from Boundary Group meeting on April 24th, but OACC is not affected as our boarders have been changed recently.

GM was not at St Peter's School meeting because restricted just for School representatives and two PTA representatives, but GM invited to PTA meeting the day after where school reiterated that better facilities are still wanted and needed, but that those will be outwit the area; GM ends report by stating that St Peter's project will not happen any time soon.

Forthcoming meetings

Oil and Gas consultation from Scottish government runs until end of month, consult.scotlandgov.uk

AGM Friends of Seaton Park, 22 June

Park fest, 10 September

12. AUSA update

LN reads out Lewis MacLeods updates: RAG has raised more than 116k pounds for charities, currently AUSA is in the process of organising student-lead teaching awards and everyone is invited to hustings about the General Election on Friday May 19th. LN and Lewis MacLeod both stress that AUSA opposes the HMO proposals.

13. AOCB

The next meeting will be on the 20th of June, Old Town House at 7.30pm.

GW asks if there are any news about the spearhead, Ross Grant is absent, but GW says that the council has the obligation alongside M&S to keep it in repair as it currently looks disgraceful. LS asks if there is any ongoing financial input from M&S, GM replies that the plaque just says M&S contributed to moving it.