

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen Townhouse

Minutes

1. Present: Isobel Aitken (chair), Trevor Stack (secretary), Gordon Mutch, George Wood, Dewi Morgan, Christine Burgess, Jacinta Birchley, Cllr. Ramsay Milne, Ehud Reiter, Ann Reiter, Darren Bruce (Police Scotland), Emily Beever (AUSA), Jenny Waters (AUSA), Theresa Merrick (UoA)
Apologies: Cllr. Jim Noble, Cllr. Ross Grant
2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
 - Minutes approved.
 - Arising - TS to check with Doug Ritchie about College Bounds signs, and consultation on Bedford Road closure.
3. Police update
 - License has been requested for a festival in Seaton Park, though Inspector Bruce has raised a number of concerns, and asked for a community consultation.
 - With regard to Bede Court, some progress has been made toward resolving the issues.
 - More crimes than usual, including the theft of 5 bicycles.
4. University update (Theresa Merrick)
 - Will pilot 24-hour opening of University library.
 - To begin public consultation on new Sciences building, beside library, though dates of consultation are not yet confirmed. Concerns were expressed about how close to St Machar Drive the building would be placed.
 - Exhibition in library to commemorate 500th anniversary of death of Bishop Elphinstone.
 - Ongoing discussion of 5-year Strategic Plan. Other than the Sciences building, doesn't expect major review of the Estates plan.
 - Hoping to arrange regular attendance by University at OACC meetings, since sees as important. GM says that regular attendance would be desirable.
5. Chicanes on College Bounds
 - Resident had emailed OACC in response to newsletter item complaining about the ugly signs marking the chicanes on College Bounds, noting that drivers had been exceeding 20 miles/hour but appear to be slowed down by the chicanes.

- Christine Burgess asks if a flashing sign indicating drivers' speed might be effective, and how much it might cost. Inspector Bruce will investigate.
6. Bins on The Spital (Jacinta Birchley)
- JB notes that bins are being left out. DM observes that Council can issue fine, after warning sticker attached, if left out. TS proposes that City Wardens are asked to stick warnings onto the bins. Agreed to invite City Wardens to next meeting.
7. Youth and Criminal Justice questionnaire
- Questionnaire filled out, after discussion.
8. Seaton Park walkabout
- CB reports discussion during walkabout of feasibility study, the cost of which has been approved, of converting the flooded area into a loch, into which the rest of the park will be drained. Final cost is likely to be around £200K, but there is hope of finding funding for this.
 - Concern was expressed about playground, since this will require significant investment to keep it open, including upkeep to the train.
 - RM reports discussion about life belts, which are not seen as effective and are getting thrown into the river.
9. City Councillors' update
- RM: Mitchell Hospital on Chanonry – Trustees have reported that substantial sum would be required to bring building up to standard, and seems that they are inclined to wind it up, although a Friends of Mitchell Hospital association has been set up. GM to investigate with Alan Innes.
10. AUSA update
- AUSA President invites to tour of Butchart Centre at 10 am on 3 December.
 - Rag Week held 2 weeks ago, raising £6-7K.
11. Planning issues
- GW: Nothing to report. Notes that website is not being updated because website development officer hasn't been appointed.
12. Treasurer's report
- No significant movement.
13. Reports of other meetings
- DM had meeting with Chief Executive and Council Leader, who agreed to look into adding Community Councils to Licensing email list, reconsider HMO provision in Old Aberdeen, and visit Old Aberdeen.
 - GM attended Tillydrone Development Trust meeting: continuing to develop plans for Wallace Tower, and looking for around £400K to fund the development.

14. Correspondence

- None, expect under Item 5.

15. Date and venue for next meeting

- Tuesday 9 December at 7.30 pm in Old Aberdeen Townhouse.

16. AOCB

- GW: warns that proposed redevelopment of AECC is likely to increase traffic on King Street.
- GW: complains that Council is not engaging with nationwide attempts to challenge Big 6 control of energy production, though RM disputes this.