**Garthdee Community Council**

**Meeting 11th December 2018 7pm at Inchgarth cc**

1. **Attendance:**

Paul O’Connor, Arthur Allan, Andrew Murray, Rob Preston, Irene Buchan, Hilda Smith, Jo Duthie, Rab Murchie, Gordon Townson, Ben Espindola, Joe Espindola, Tom Malcolm, Emma Avis, Inspector Jackie Knight, Liz Ponting and members of the public

**2. Welcome and Apologies:**

Cllr Ian Yuill, Cllr Douglas Lumsden, Pat Adams

**3. Police Report:**

Crimes reported since last meeting- 16 reported crimes, down from previous period, 10 have been detected. 5 related to thefts at the retail park, 2 thefts at RGU campus which have been detected- 1 vandalism to a vehicle on Morrison Drive- 1 attempted theft on Auchinyell road- 1 domestic incident at Norwood Hall.

A good period all in all- only 2 reports of youth annoyance.

Reminder to make house look occupied if you’re out.

Discussion held around urging residents to report any incidents or attempted incidents of break ins.

Gordon who sits on the public protection committee- praised the positivity and the partnership working well.

7 years ago Garthdee had the highest level oaf antisocial behaviour- great to see very few instances being reported.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Proposed by: Rab Murchie

Seconded by: Tom Malcolm

**5. Matters Arising:**

All the information on office bearers and nominations has been sent to Karen Rennie.

Karen will complete training at the January meeting.

Paul spoke to Pat Adams- she is unsure if she will stay on as an associate member due to work and volunteering commitments.

Paul spoke to Inspector Knight re the police office at Kaimhill as it’s now surplus to requirements.

Jackie is going to look into as the police still hold the lease on the office.

Gordon is speaking to the police re this also.

Paul has made contact with student placement officers at RGU re running an event.

**6. Correspondence:**

Paul has contacted the city wardens re their attendance. Hope to see a city warden attend the January meeting.

Correspondence received included-

Scott from Inchgarth community centre had gathered the statistics for Garthdee.

Andy Cowie- assistance to help support the Garthdee church

Richard Nicolson from city council - email

Emails from Benji Espindola

Bike security email from Police Scotland

Church- email from Keith Blackwood minister at Mannofield church

William Gilchrist- Sun 16th at 2pm- having a memorial service at the funeral home.

Civic forum- meeting was on 27th November

Elizabeth Grant from NHS Grampian re bird boxes.

Development print out for Kaimhill bowling club.

Karen Finch- climate week North east steering group- organising a walk in the community.

Temporary traffic notice

Karen Finch- agendas for various committees

Inviting comments for licensing board.

Structure for Aberdeen city council- should be issued in the new year.

Interactive mapping- you can find where grit bins are in the area.

Alison Swanson- licensing committee agenda

Info sheet on cycling on footpaths

Karen Finch- invite for networking coffee morning.

Emma Avis- planning list

Police Scotland- contact details for all inspectors

**7. Gwens Garden- presentation by Bob Donald from One Seed Forward**

The Organisation is set up to encourage people to grow their own fruit and veg. A growing food initiative.

Please refer to leaflet issued.

In the past year, received funding for education in conjunction with Aberdeen Uni. A pack is available to teachers with these packs available online. Potential to involve this with Gwens Garden and also involve Kaimhill primary school. Can help to signpost for materials etc, and can assist financially to some degree. Trees etc are available form the Woodland Trust. One Seed Forward could provide seeds.

Gordon asked Bob if he had looked at corporate funding or sponsorship. Not many people have been approached in the city, as materials have been provided through goodwill.

Bob can guide you to funding pots available. Also suggests that January is the right time to approach companies.

Paul asked if anyone had any questions for Bob. 2 strands to the group- one is engagement with schools with the educational material- the other is with the giving away of seed potatoes. The idea is that the site is to be sustainable. Provide the knowledge and materials.

Gwens Garden will be working in partnership with One Seed Forward and are in contact with Kaimhill Primary School.

**8. Local Development Plan 2022:**

At the last community council meeting a discussion was held around the local development plan and made aware of the potential proposals for the land opposite Caledon Court.

Gwens Garden have been meeting with council officers re the forestation of the field. Development has been proposed- no planning issues at the moment.

We’re at the stage where Garthdee church is potentially going for sale (which we are trying to stop). Potential development at the opposite side of the river, behind RGU nursery, land has been sold for student property- as well as development on Inchgarth Road.

There is a huge amount of development being proposed in the area.

The area where the bowling club was situated. The local development plan has highlighted that the site opposite Caledon court could also be developed on.

Paul received many emails re the local development plan.

At the last meting, we had a brief conversation. This was not received very positively but we agreed to look at it.

Paul highlighted concerns such as access.

Paul asked the members of the public for their views on the proposed development. These are highlighted below:

Letters had been put through the door of Garthdee Farm Gardens by a local resident. Concerns around size and scale. has seen what has happened with the student flats (did not match what was being put forward to the community).

Loss of privacy, blocking out of sunlight to gardens, discussed security concerns as well.

Would like to maintain the site as it is, perhaps working with Gwens Garden, provide screening for the residents of Garthdee Farm Gardens.

Could potentially be an issue with disturbance on the site, have a knock on effect to the visibility to the access of Den of Pitfodels- potential safety issue.

Gordon is not impressed with the speed of the council following a meeting in Dec 2017, there was supposed to be a reconfiguration of the access to the site.

Still an issue with the land being taken over/adopted by the council. The community council had challenged this previously.

Its not in the spirit of the area- we need a green space. If the construction went ahead- the land doesn’t lend itself to drainage.

Construction could lead to vibration issues. How deep would they have to drill to support the construction.

As a community council we endorse and need council housing, but we have another site which is more suitable. Tom highlighted, affordable housing and social housing are not the same.

There are other housing developments in the area, and traffic issues are already a problem.

Whats missing here is an impact study before any other houses are built.

Parking issues in the area also. Paul has liaised with new RGU principal re parking issues, as these are issues in certain streets with residents only parking, the community centre and also the school. Paul could highlight this with the principal.

Paul is emailing the operators of the student accommodation that they cannot get permits for their residents as its a condition of staying there. It will also be raised the issue with parking in Den of Pitfodels area.

Paul asked community council members their views.

Community councillors highlighted their concerns, the level of traffic, the impact of traffic in other areas. Needing the green space in the area.

Unanimous agreement to oppose any local development plan for building on this area.

Gordon will remove himself and speak as local councillor to represent the views of the community and will not vote.

Paul highlighted that the community council does have a voice and has taken on and won battles on behalf of the community.

The community council supports Gwens Garden and oppose the development in the area.

The residents highlighted that they would support the Gwen’s Garden project.

Rob and Tom highlighted that we do not have the infrastructure to support this development.

The com council will write a formal letter to the council, 3 councillors etc.

**9. Logo design competition 2019:**

A leaflet advertising the logo competition was issued to the com council. The com council agreed to the content of the poster.

**10. Local issues**

1. Garthdee church- congregational vote took place on 25th November- result was against the union with Mannofield- no union will take place. The other option is dissolution- the congregation is against this option. The presbytery has told planning and development to go back to the drawing board Paul asked what the community council could do to continue support.
2. Parking on the pavement at Craigievar Crescent- Tom suggested contacting the police re a letter that could be issued. Jo raised the issue of mis-use of the disabled bay on Two Mile Cross.
3. Update on the ski centre- Paul met with 2 operational directors of Sport Aberdeen. Garthdee community council was a founding member of the ski centre and had a seat on the original board. Paul went over the needs of the community and ensuring that access to given to members of the community. They have agreed for the foreseeable future.
4. Bus stop on Garthdee Road. Paul sent a further email today and the new principal of RGU. have asked them to revisit the agreed compromise. Gordon has met with the chief exec of First Bus.

Rob raised Ramsay crescent- the pensioners houses and the lack of lighting in the area. Gordon agreed to look into this.

The school had a really good fair and raised a good profit.

The girls brigade coffee morning went well.

**11. Monthly accounts:**

The monthly accounts were presented to the community council.

Please refer to accounts handout and bank statement.

proposed- Rob Preston

seconded- Irene Buchan

**12. Planning Officer and licensing officer report:**

Nothing to report

**13. Update from the community council forum:**

Tom attended the community council forum. First half of meeting was taken up with Health and social care.

Transport Group- looking at plans for the railway station, access to union terrace gardens, buses.

city centre masterplan, the gateway business park outside aberdeen.

Council forum communication with community councils, training to community councils. MInutes will be sent out next week.

**14. Councillors Reports:**

No councillors present at this point in the meeting.

**15. Members of the public:**

No further items added

**16. AOCB:**

Hilda thanked the community council for the card following the passing of her sister.

Tom issued a sheet re the ongoing issues/campaigns and suggestions.

Tom suggested breaking off into smaller groups- sub groups to take things on.

Discussion held around content.

Paul asked the community council to have a look at things that they are keen on and work forward.

Irene will look at christmas lights- Andrew agreed to support with looking at funding.

Tom will look at the newsletter, communication streams.

Hilda is keen to work on school capacity issues.

**17. Date and time of next meeting:**

Tuesday 8th January 2019.