

Planning Group report

Gloria writes that this is not a formal report, but she wants the Community Council to address various issues:

I have so far been keeping an eye on the later applications since beginning of December. There are none that are worth commenting, however there are interesting cases / developments that the Council may find merit for discussion.

The application concerned is 15/05325/LBC for Sciennes Primary School.

Given the site has a jumble of existing extensions over the past 50 years or so, this addition is neither here nor there. There are worse examples on site. There is a clear need given the free school meal initiative, for a new dining hall. However the architectural design, and the other single storey extensions as existing on site are of the most dreadful portakabin style boxes on the cheap - not somewhere that would inspire learning or a joy to be in for the school children. This has very little to do with the current planning application, and much to do with the budget, how the Council organises and prioritises quality of space for their citizens and not have an overall vision for developments throughout the city (and all the schools for example).

I am not sure that really counts as material objection as such, and effectively asking for them to demolish existing buildings to erect something that is well designed in its place instead of a box, may require a lot more consultation and a lot more money which probably isn't available.

We/SCC might be able to energise the Council to put more design and efforts to coordinate forward visioning rather than "patchwork" needs basis.

The current proposal could not be counted as contentious, (probably already the best quality box we could get for the budget available) just lack of vision for the school which then results in poor quality design time and time again over the many years.

I think the SCC should discuss the position, and where the Council feels that we could pressure or not the Council to make better visioning decisions for the future in perhaps even budget management into projects. For example all the schools are going to grow in the future alongside the population, have we planned ahead for that? Perhaps the Council have looked but we are not in the loop?

I note with interest also that Miller homes have been rightly refused permission to develop 10 houses NE of 10 Suffolk Road, 14/03632/FUL, we have of course missed the chance of representation before SCC started. However it would remain to be seen whether that goes to appeal, and the decision from the Reporter. (Even more interesting that development management subcommittee report to hearing was to recommend granting permission but was refused by reason for protection of open space etc.)

Perhaps we should look into more detail in new year within the planning group, while looking into policy document for the CC planning group, listing amenities desired by us for the community and assessing what our assets are, what we want to protect, have a ready reckon list to request of larger developments to add, and what we should concentrate our efforts on.

December is a busy month and apologies I cannot attend on 14 December. I hope to gather the planning group for a quick meeting perhaps even a walk around the neighbourhood in the new year and draft our policy together then. Perhaps others on the Council might also want to join in on that initial walk with us, since our group is quite small at present, and help us form a view on the way forwards.

Gloria