



## OLD ABERDEEN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Planning Dept  
Aberdeen City Council  
Marischal College

11 Greenbrae Crescent  
Denmore  
Bridge of Don  
Aberdeen  
AB23 8LH

4th June 2015

Dear Sirs,

Application to erect four smoking shelters, University of Aberdeen  
Ref No. P.150525

The Society wishes to make the following points with regard to this application:-

The proposed smoking shelters represent unnecessary visual clutter in the Old Aberdeen Conservation Area.

Three of the four would be sited in landscaped or amenity areas, and would detract from the amenity of these parts of the Conservation Area.

Unlike the existing bicycle shelters or racks, (which can be justified as contributing to the Council's objectives of Sustainable Travel/Transport), the proposed smoking shelters would bring only negative amenity to the area. The visual clutter would not, in planning terms, be outweighed by any material consideration.

Further, unlike bicycle shelters, the nature of the use of these shelters would probably cause problems with litter, and, indeed pollution.

The smoking shelter proposed for the University Office car park would have less negative impact, as it would not be situated in a landscaped or amenity area.

The other three proposed smoking shelters would have a significant negative impact, both in terms of visual clutter and potential problems with litter, on amenity areas highly visible from public roads, or on dedicated landscaped areas.

The shelter proposed in front of the main entrance of the MacRobert Building, on the grassed landscaping at the approach steps, would be an unattractive intrusion on the main facade of this key building, and would certainly detract from the amenity of the attractive tree-lined lawn where the shelter would be sited.

The shelter proposed in the amenity area beside the St Mary's buildings on Elphinstone Road would increase the level of visual clutter here in what was intended as an attractive amenity area; without any resulting planning gain.

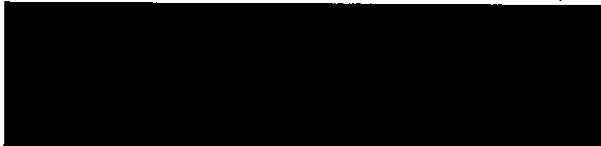
The shelter proposed on the lawns outside the Edward Wright Building would have a particularly detrimental effect on the amenity of the area. This part of the Conservation Area was laid out some years ago as attractive lawns, paths and ornamental trees. Some of this was lost

when the Edward Wright Annexe, a "temporary" building was built, but the planning conditions attached to that building mean that on its removal the landscaping should be restored. The remaining lawns, studded by trees, are an attractive green oasis in this area. Two bicycle racks have been positioned there, and this is more than enough clutter in an area of attractive landscaping. An ugly smoking shelter, sited nearer the centre of the landscaped area, would tip the balance, and these lawns would lose the character of a pleasant green oasis and become more of an area of utilitarian structures. Needless to say, the generation of clouds of smoke and the attendant litter problems associated with such shelters would be completely inappropriate for this area of lawns, trees and attractive garden seating.

The Society views all the proposed smoking shelters as unnecessary and ugly visual clutter, and detrimental to the amenity of the Old Aberdeen Conservation Area, while not contributing to the City's planning objectives in any way. One of the shelters, by the University Office, does not have quite such an impact, being in a less obvious position, but we wish to lodge an objection to the remaining three, which are in more prominent positions, on the grounds of damage to the character and amenity of the Conservation Area.

We would add that it is both surprising and disappointing to see an educational institution which should be promoting healthy living, encouraging smoking in any location.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

B McPetrie

Planning Secretary

# OLD ABERDEEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning Liaison  
2 Harrow Road  
ABERDEEN  
AB24 1UN

Development Management  
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 4, Marischal College  
Broad Street  
ABERDEEN  
AB10 1AB

5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Sir,

Application No. - P.150525, University of Aberdeen to erect four smoking shelters.

Old Aberdeen Community Council wish to make representations regarding the individual shelters detailed in this application as follows: -

1. The MacRobert Building shelter. The proposed shelter is in an elevated position, in full view of King Street and immediately in front of the actual MacRobert Building. The erection would be in full view of the passing public, including schoolchildren, causing a detrimental visual effect to the building's context. In addition, it would impair and cause damage to the landscaping in front of the building and the traffic of smokers would have an adverse effect on the mature trees in the landscaping.  
The shelter would be extremely intrusive to the Old Aberdeen Conservation Area.
2. University Office shelter. The structure would be clearly visible from King Street and is mounted on what is currently an attractive granite wall, the only such wall in this area. The structure would be visually intrusive, detrimental to the appearance of the area and not in keeping with the character of a conservation area.
3. Edward Wright shelter. This structure is a further proliferation of metal and plastic and forms a solid visually obstructive in a pleasant green area which should be preserved for the relaxation and recreation of students and staff.  
It would be detrimental to the character of the conservation area.
4. St. Mary's shelter. This area does little to promote the ethos of a conservation area, but this is no reason to increase the amount of street furniture with which the area is already littered.  
An increase in the existing line of modern plastic and metal equipment would be visually detrimental to the conservation area.
5. On a non-planning issue, it is not considered desirable that smoking should be encouraged by any public body.

On the above grounds, Old Aberdeen Community Council feels that this application should be rejected in its totality.

Yours sincerely,

  
George A. Wood  
Planning Liaison.  
For and on behalf of Old Aberdeen Community Council.

PI

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From: webmaster@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
Sent: 04 June 2015 15:12  
To: PI  
Subject: Planning Comment for 150525

Comment for Planning Application 150525

Name : John Watson  
Address : ASH Scotland  
8 Fredrick Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 2HB

Telephone : [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

type :

Comment : Dear Sir / Madam

Local authority department: Aberdeen City Council

Reference: Planning application No. 150525

Summary of application proposes: Erect 4 smoking shelters on university campus at Old Aberdeen

ASH Scotland &#8211; Action on Smoking and Health (Scotland) - is the independent Scottish charity taking action to reduce the harm caused by tobacco. Having examined the plans in relation to the above application, we wish to object to the development of these smoking shelters until further consultation has been conducted in partnership with the University, and key stakeholders including ourselves.

We wish to explore with the University of Aberdeen to identify if the proposal for the four shelters and their locations has been informed by a comprehensive consultation with students, staff and other key stakeholders. We wish to further identify if the proposal takes into consideration the impact smoking and smokers congregating within these shelters will have on the social and cultural norms across the campus; who may be affected by the harm caused by second-hand smoke; and what repercussions there will be for the University of Aberdeen&#8217;s policies to provide a safe workplace environment for all learners&#8217;, staff and visitors&#8217; health and wellbeing.

We would therefore like to work with the University of Aberdeen to review their existing policy to ensure it is health promoting, striving to change the culture across campus towards discouraging smoking and encourages compliance, therefore making enforcement more achievable.

Although there is no legal stance on the use of smoking shelters on most university campuses there are considerable benefits to developing a comprehensive tobacco policy across campus, which are wide ranging and include:  
&#8226; A safer and healthier environment for all smokers and non-smokers; &#8226; Higher level of compliance with legal obligations for safe workplaces; &#8226; Reduced risk of legal action over second-hand smoke injuries; &#8226; Cleaner environment with reduced risks of fire; &#8226; Enhanced institutional profile as a community leader through ending sales of tobacco on campus; &#8226; A more socially responsible and ethical standard of conduct for the institute, its staff and students when all forms of tobacco-funded research and partnerships are excluded.

In April 2015 Scotland saw all NHS grounds become smoke-free, removing all shelters and taking major steps forward in protecting patients, staff and visitors from the harm caused by second-hand smoke. It is therefore concerning that colleges and universities are spend considerable amounts of money to erect smoking shelters

without knowledge of and consideration for national policy approaches and without comprehensive consultation to inform such proposals.

Furthermore, smoke-free NHS Hospital grounds, has meant that one of the University campuses, Foresthill Campus, will now be treating smoking on the ground as an offence whereas Old Aberdeen will be facilitating smoking through shelters, giving mixed messages across the University. We appreciate that the University does not control the grounds through and around Old Aberdeen however there are other steps being taken within the city (Bon Accord and St Nicholas Centre) which are supported by the Scottish Government's national strategy stating Local Authorities should implement full smoke-free policies across their properties and surrounding grounds, extending to other outdoor areas and contributing to local tobacco control plans in support of SOAs.

ASH Scotland

#### Appendix

The health, social and economic impacts of smoking are well established. Evidence shows that the younger an individual starts to smoke, the more likely they are to be an adult smoker, the more heavily they are likely to smoke during adulthood and the more likely they are to fall ill and die early as a result of tobacco use. The long-term impact of tobacco use on health is well-documented, increasing the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke by 2 to 4 times, causing approximately 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80% in women, causing 90% of all deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease<sup>12</sup> and causing 24% of all deaths each year in Scotland.

Smoking is a childhood addiction. Around two thirds of smokers in the UK started smoking under the age of 18 and we also know that young people from the most deprived areas progress to regular smoking more rapidly and more frequently than those in the least deprived areas. We know that 15,000 young people take up smoking in Scotland each year. That's 40 young people every day.

23% of adult smokers (aged 16+) smoke in Scotland, we know that 70% of Scottish smokers wish to quit.

Tobacco purchase has obvious financial costs as well as health costs for young smokers, with a typical pack of 20 cigarettes costing £8.47 (in March 2014). The financial cost of tobacco may therefore have great implications for students dealing with increased independence, moving away from home, managing finances and dealing with debt.

Creating environments that encourages and supports more people to not smoke is a national priority set within the Scottish Government's National Tobacco Control Strategy 'Creating a Tobacco-Free Generation' with a series of actions aimed at achieving smoke-free status by 2034 (less than 5% of the population as smokers).

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P&SD Letters of Reconsideration		
Application Number: 150525		
RECEIVED - 5 JUN 2015		
Nor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Soj <input type="checkbox"/>	MAp <input type="checkbox"/>
Case Officer Initials ALF		
Date Acknowledged 05/06/2015		