

## **Torry is a community not a dormitory**

We strongly reiterate that Torry is one of the oldest settlements in the North East with a recorded history of over one thousand years. It is not a dormitory suburb, and should this revised application be agreed, then this only erodes the identity of the community that is Torry.

There are numerous alternatives that this present application disregards. Alternatives include a local partnership with the community that would involve retention and conversion of these unique granite buildings which are local gems in the national crown of fine Victorian buildings. Retention enhances a source of local civic pride, whereas demolition will impose an unwanted solution which does not fit into local need or aspiration; this application is merely a speculative housing development by a major house-builder and all a time when the housing market is in poor health. We again respectfully remind Members that a petition of some 2200 was presented to the City Council and supported a call for retention of the school buildings.

According to the Council's own documents, Torry is a place of multiple deprivations as defined in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, with well documented, specific needs. There are other potential future uses that would meet local needs and we request that they be considered. These include: -

- 1 Conversion into low-cost affordable homes and/or offices for small businesses and social enterprises
- 2 A community hub with a focus on health and wellbeing, and the heritage of Torry

and not least the restoration and adaption to be a school again adding in a good geographical distribution of primary school locations in Torry that will alleviate the chronic overcrowding in our existing local primary schools.

### **Conclusion**


We re-affirm that this or any planning application that involves the demolition of the Victoria Road School buildings should not be approved by the City Council at any level of decision-making. Many cities of the world rightly celebrate their historic building and local heritage and the Granite City should be no exception. We request that immediate plans are progressed to retain and restore these fine buildings, saving a unique piece of the Victorian Granite heritage that is all that remains of the architectural and civic fabric of Old Torry. The alternative is to lose a set of beautiful buildings that are priceless and impossible to replace. Once you demolish, another piece of our history and heritage is lost forever!!!

We have reviewed the latest set of documents and are dismayed that such low grade proposals outlined in this proposed development for the school site and adjoining land can be considered as sufficient reason to completely dis-regard the Planning Policy D4 for the protection of our granite heritage, and especially as this an important site within the catchment of Old Torry that holds great civic pride not just for the community of Torry, but in many places worldwide as the high level of objections world-wide has demonstrated.

The value of our city's granite heritage is priceless, and restored and maintained granite buildings will live to be enjoyed by many generations who will benefit from retention of these buildings. The time is now to save the granite heritage of Old Torry. Please preserve the integrity of Policy D4 in the current LDP and we request that the City Council, at either the Planning Committee or Full Council rejects this latest application (and any further) scheme that involves demolition of the Victoria Road School buildings.

Any decision to not hold a public hearing into this application given the very high level of public objection denies natural justice and such a decision has no place in a planning system that is meant to reflect communities and their sense of place.

Yours faithfully

  
David Fryer - Secretary  
For and On Behalf of Torry Community Council  
[secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytorrycommunitycouncil@gmail.com)  
Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter

---

Correspondence Address: The Secretary, Torry Community Council, 66 Abbey Road, Torry, AB11 9PE