

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

David Fryer
66 Abbey Road.....
Torry.....
AB11 9PE.....

28th August 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application Reference P161051, Victoria Road Primary School, Torry, Aberdeen.

This letter is to object to this planning application on the following grounds: --

1. The demolition of the Victoria Road School buildings would be a major loss of a granite heritage building and would contravene Policy D.4 of the present 2012 Local Development Plan. Planning Officers have stated in a formal report to the Planning Committee that the loss of a substantial and unique granite building cannot be accommodated within the policy. I ask how a policy is being maintained if it allows for smashing a structurally sound building into a million pieces?
2. The destruction of these locally and very important granite structures will have a negative impact on the area's visual character and the most likely crushing of the granite material represents a loss which would breach current EU Directives relating to the recycling of materials, and would also breach Policy H1 of the present 2012 Local Development Plan.
3. The proposed development is out of character in every sense with the significant presence of granite in Old Torry and the lack of architectural cohesion and fenestration only completes the bland character of this scheme.
4. The proposed development will lead to the loss of a significant community resource, with the accompanying negative impact on community cohesion. In my considered view, the speculative and commercial nature of these proposals provides no offset of community gain and does not comply with the ethos of paragraph 3.51 of the present 2012 Local Development Plan.

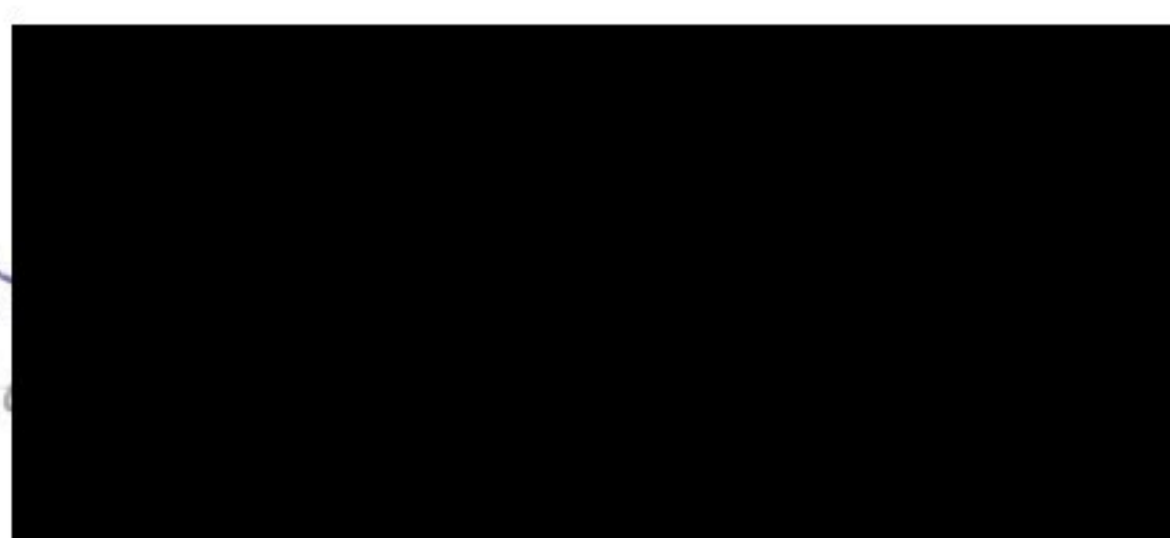
These buildings should be kept as an irreplaceable piece of the granite heritage of Old Torry. Fine example of granite buildings involving former schools that have been restored and brought back into new uses. In particular, I cite Mile End School, Causewayend School and Hanover Street remains a school where retention of structures has worked well. What is required are possible future uses that will meet local needs and must these be considered are:

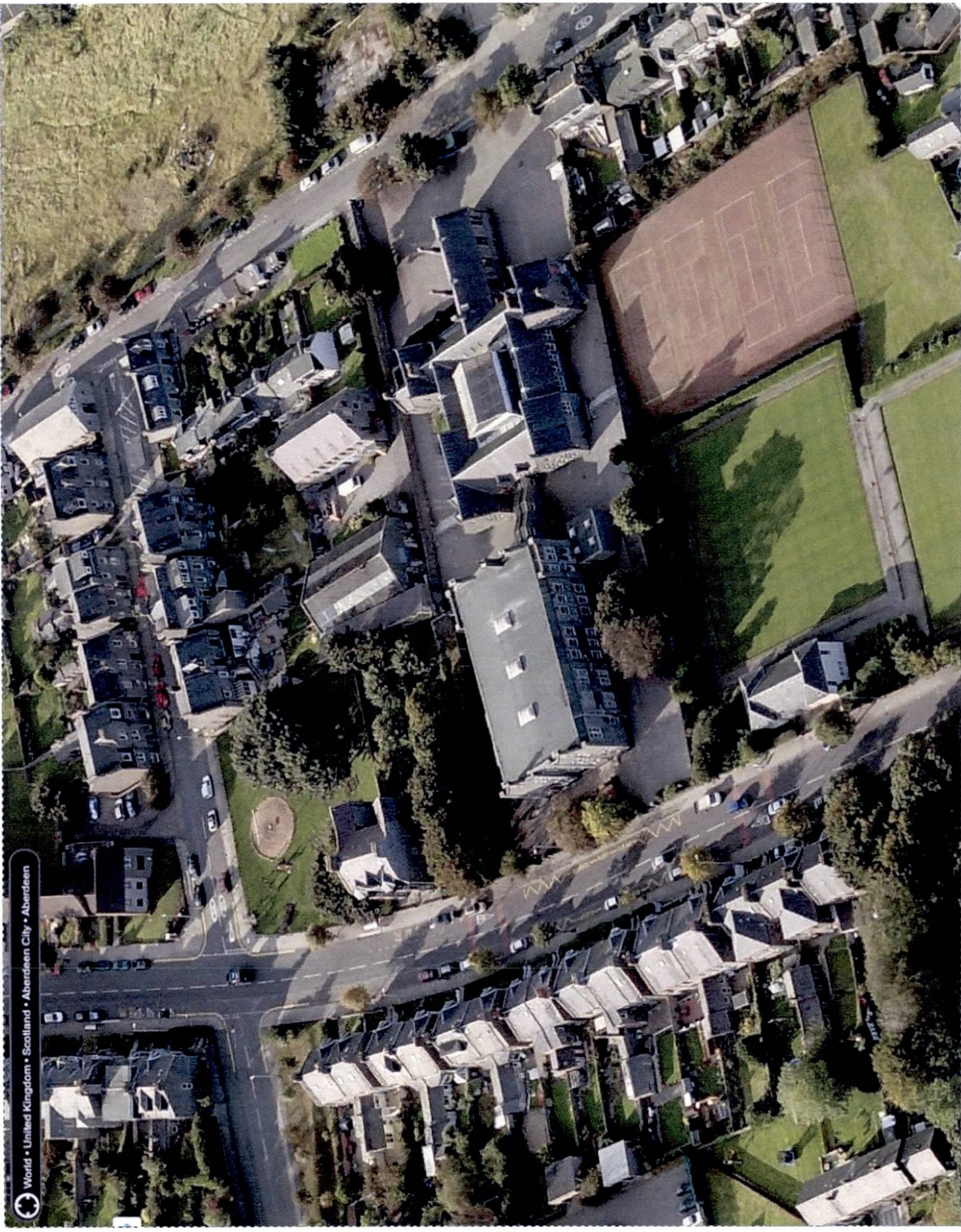
- 1 The Council is on record in that there is a need for a new primary school in Torry to alleviate the chronic overcrowding in the local primary schools. I urge that this set of buildings be repaired, restored and brought back into use as a school using adjacent lands as needed for education and community needs
- 2 Alternatively, there can be conversion into low-cost homes and/or offices for small businesses
- 3 A community hub with a focus on health and wellbeing, arts and small workshops, and also linked to the sports centre is another viable alternative

By reason of the clear breaches of Council Policy, to preserve our granite heritage and to meet local needs of the community of Torry, I would appeal for the Planning Committee and the City Council to refuse this planning application.

Yours sincerely,

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