

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

STEPHEN BARNEY  
8 CHERRY ROW  
UNION STATION  
AB11 6AF  
Date: 19-8-2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I wish to object to the present 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 Local Development Plan. Planning Officers have stated in a formal report that the loss of a substantial and unique granite building cannot be accommodated within the policy. How can a policy be maintained if a structurally sound building is demolished?
2. The destruction of this locally important granite structure 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 Local Development Plan.
3. The proposed development is out of character with the significant presence of granite in Old Torry and the lack of architectural 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. The purely 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 Local Development Plan.

These buildings should be kept as an irreplaceable piece of the granite heritage of Old Torry. Fine example of granite buildings, and there are good examples involving former schools that have been restored and brought back into new uses. Possible future uses that will meet local needs and must 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 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

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,

