

BANCHORY

Ward Forum 16 - Strachan - Wednesday 19th November 2008

PUBLIC TOILETS

Question:

What can we do about the toilets shutting too early?

Why are public toilets not open at appropriate times e.g. Friday nights when there can be up to hundreds of young people out?

Responses:

Toilets shut 8 pm at night. Shut due to cost, need supervision. History of vandalism. Possibility opening till 9.30 pm. Possibility of portaloos. Keys for King George 5th from Jean Henretty.

Possibility of youth worker in box to take charge of key.

Should talk to councillor.

Come this Friday all day to raise issue (MIR). Lots of people will raise the profile, town hall, tourist, village in summer don't think just youth issue, address as whole community. Toilets need an attendant. Toilets close at dusk. Money isn't for revenue costs. Town hall is open £30,000 PA to run a toilet. Only open when manned. Urinals porta loos just for males very expensive to put in.

Aberdeen City needs two Shire would need loads. Linda Clark suggested Pro-actively addressing Piper to ask businesses to use loos. Use of current KGV pavilion on a Friday night.

Friday night shut. Chinese restaurant angry that young people use his toilets. No other toilets available. Vandalism caused them to close possibly. They're in perfect condition. Summer and winter shut.

Scheme to pay businesses to open their toilets by council ideal solution would be the takeaway.

Possible solution on horizon. Youths expressed interest in drawings for new café/sports/facility £2m needed for project.

Open Town Hall toilets? Possible negotiations with Chinese owner. Has anyone approached the council? No, but will do it tonight.

SCHOOL EXCLUSION

Question:

Why do some people in the school get excluded more easily than others? The system is unfair.

Responses:

Have youths addressed pupil council? Some students scruffy not wearing uniform. Two people victimised but with empty threats. No mention in policy about hair dye. Guidance teacher would need another side to story.

Pupil council maybe controlled by teachers? Pupil representatives. Community should speak to Senior Management team. Only particular teachers. Mother of

pupils in question should speak to parent council. Council has complaints procedure, can go to Education office in Stonehaven and complaint would be investigated. If not happy then Les Allan would personally investigate. Student Council needs re-addressing. Community School Network development plan what they're doing to reduce exclusions.

TRANSPORT

Questions:

Why is the Banchory bus service such a mess? Later service needed from Aberdeen. More Sunday buses. It's also expensive.

Responses:

Timetable scattered Sunday service bad. Bus forum case can be put to them find out contact with bus forum from council. Dial a bus rural through day, expensive as well, the forum timetable needs addressing bus forum every 3 months. Neil Stewart Transport Officer for Aberdeenshire Council on Lotus notes. Come to see Peter Macallum of Friday re bus fares and timetables, Fire Service addressed issue of people being crammed into cars and using cars instead of buses. Situation when council will subsidise due to use, council cannot subsidise everything, bus forum are prepared to look at time tables, Linda Gray will be informed of forum times maybe youth forum can attend. Strathdon has service with open slots for community initiative buses Linda Clark stressed not "they have loads we have nothing" its more strive for best everywhere. Evidence usage to bus forum maybe put bus on for trial period feature in the piper councillor Graham Cox, send him and e-mail ask if other people have issues piper article perhaps taxi service arranges mini buses.

POLICE

Question:

Why are the police never about Banchory? Need more police on the roads.

Responses:

Have any of you ever reported anything to the police? Big area the way things have moved we now maybe only have 2 officers covering Drumoak to Braemar, looking at how to address this e.g. call centre. More officers at Banchory - road accidents take up lot of time - special constables are used, shifts make things difficult - issues on Friday nights. Andy Cruickshank has moved on new CBO plus probationer. Please phone if you feel your enjoyment is being affected by other peoples actions, if you know of young people purchasing alcohol please contact us. On the alcohol side - awareness raising event on 12 December, Making it Real event Friday. Why would the police need to be about this is the safest are in Scotland? Changing the way they work. More on Banchory Streets now availability, talking issues as an individual - dangerous.

HOUSING

Question:

How can the young people be helped to be able to afford to stay in the area? i.e. affordable houses to buy or rent.

Responses:

We are told constantly that young people don't want to stay in the area. It's a nationwide problem. It would be my view that HOB development should be made to include a large number of affordable rents or buy houses, there should be starter homes. It's your councillors that make the decisions on these plans more conditions need to be applied. The system is changing. The next local plan consultation is starting now. Some people think Banchory should have no more executive houses. There is a perception that nobody between 25-35 wants to live in Banchory. Delivery of houses has been affected by the market, has been demand in Banchory for large houses percentage has to be low cost / affordable. New planning process about to start, in a way the property market current problems may help the situation. Young folk at the bottom of the wage scale can't get on the property ladder, it is going to be difficult to crack, this elected officials should be able to represent your views and project your interests. B & D doesn't have tenements but a modern version might work. Any planning application has to be judged against policy in place next set of priorities might be different. Even building affordable housing requires a large subsidy. Very hard to solve this problem. Seems to be inadequate low cost housing. Planning starts long time ahead, go to consultations now. Get involved in local plan. Nobody takes notice when consultations happen. Believe there is now a commitment by council to build more low cost housing. Stop selling council houses? Really good question.

ENVIRONMENT

Question:

Why don't we know what's going on in our own community e.g. what is planned for the Hill of Banchory?

Why are all the trees being cut down i.e. Hill of Banchory?

Responses:

Plans available this week in Town Hall in Banchory. Young people can put forward their views. Community Council have plans about their area. Some have evenings for young people. Important to get youth views. Don't have to be invited to attend. Planning gain officer based in Town Hall. Swimming Pool £100,000 sitting in account, will it ever be built? New Primary new pool perhaps events not appealing. Go into SE classes into school. Plans in library. Set up in school to make sure you get young people involved informal. 12-9 Town Hall.

SCHOOL

Question:

Why was the security system put in place? Why are the toilets such a mess? (Lock Facilities).

Why don't school children get a say in their own school? Why is it like big Brother?

Responses:

Security System. Cameras if anything stolen no help. Dunblane made security an issue. Only people who should be in are in. Perhaps gone too far? Schools are inspected and security comes into that.

YOUTH FACILITIES

Question:

Why is there not enough youth facilities in Banchory e.g. Youth Café?

Responses:

1999 set up Y2K Keith White. Youth Café general request. Now 9 years on needs 2 million pounds. It is possible. Seen as wealthy, fund raising underway, targeting rich people. Some money raised spent on play equipment, shelters, architect free time. 3 pitches time scale 2 years $\frac{1}{2}$ million a year to run. H of B 11 acres planning gain school built on some of it. Problem of getting a site young people will use. Trouble using toilets, stainless steel cubicle, cost attendant wages. Vandalism.

Linda Clark - Youths let down badly, volunteers do a lot, park perhaps a venue. Just a place to meet wanted. S1 & 2 Coffee Bar. Is standing around in groups a problem - not always? Plant tubs - it's thought young people think it's fun to break them but what age does this? Leisure facility at H of B, Gym and swimming pool. Equipment wrecked.

Kick about area - £200 raised, £200 Bancon, £200 Planning Gain. Skate park lack of use BMX. Safe area to socialise. Facilities - Jean Henretty, King George 5th Park. Youth Café. Toilet use. £2 million required for new facility.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Question:

Why do we have such poor skate board facilities?

Responses:

No pool - but pools are hard to fund finances, community involvement, £2000 raised for kick about pitch being supported by firm and council, you need to get your acts together. Forestry commission have knocked down things set up by young people, need to set up discussion re setting up area with forestry commission - they should be willing to allocate an area for BMX - work together. If you had spoken to us we might have been able to find you £6000. Join the KGV project and we could maybe include skate park facilities.