

[REDACTED]
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9th May 2019.

Aberdeen City Local Development Plan 2019 Main Issues Report

Dear Sir Madam,

INTRO: My comments are made against The Main Issues Report, Section 3.7 Main Issue 2 – A **24 Hour City**. This states “We are looking at means to allow economic activity outwith the usual office hours times. It can include eating and drinking, entertainment and nightlife such as theatre, cinemas, music and other arts venues, **pubs, and night clubs.** “

Background: I am a member of Bon Accord Residents Association (BARA). Since 2018, when Kevin Stewart (MSP) wrote to BARA residents and ACC responded [1,2], **BARA has sought to clarify the potential linkages between pedestrianisation plan EN03 and future night economy plans (Main Issues)**, and resulting impacts for BARA residents near Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane.

Positive Developments: The ACC has in 2019 facilitated additional dialogue regarding EN03. Since October 2018 BARA residents are included in the revised boundary for the City Centre Community Council. I believe that the future dialog BARA to ACC will be enhanced if we continue to engage. I have been appreciative of the opportunity to talk to ACC planners and Roads officers, MSPs, Councillors, Police Officers and I hope to continue to do so going forward.

Key Issue: At time of writing the **KEY ISSUE is UNCERTAINTY : regarding the possible LOCATION and EXTENT of future night/24 hour economy plans.** In particular whether EN03-planned-pedestrianised-streets: Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane and environs are included. Zone Maps have not been provided.

Recommendation: When BARA met with roads Department, a key suggestion made by BARA, to ensure clarity going forward is that **ACC SHOULD DEFINE ITS PEDESTRIANISATION AND NIGHT ECONOMY PLANS – is EN03 solely a roads project , or a precursor project to increase the night economy.**

Note: BARA submitted FOI request [Ref EIR-19-0651] to clarify issues for both EN03 and Main Issues reports. The due date for reply is 4 June 2019. A copy is attached for info – see end of document. Document References used in the FOI request are used herein.

The Concerns below would apply **if Night/24 Economy increase is permitted along Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane.**

- Residents/residences would be impacted significantly by unacceptable levels of Alcohol-driven antisocial behaviour.

- EN03 Pedestrianisation could combine with 24 Hour Night Economy aspiration to form a “party street destination” on Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane”, with a potentially huge impact on residents, at Christmas, holidays, festival times, weekends, bank holidays and sporadically through the year.
- ACC assessment in 2018 for EN03 focused on roads not alcohol economy – ACC did not seek to measure ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR METRICS.
- The 2016 Masterplan DID NOT HIGHLIGHT a 24 Hour Economy aspiration.
- There is NO MAP in ACC documents (Main issues, EN03 or Masterplan) HIGHLIGHTING BARA residences with Gardens, lying DIRECTLY ADJACENT to EN03’s Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane, and NO INDICATION OF NIGHT ECONOMY ACTIVITY zones.

IF FOI shows that Alcohol Economy will be further increased in BARA region:

- BARA residents would seek the RIGHT TO LIVE FREE OF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR. Noting statements made on ACC website, under Anti-social behaviour.
- BARA would submit minutes, letters, covering ten years, as an audit trail to ACC officers (in the first instance). This shows how BARA has had to engage to manage ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR. This involved positive co-operation between BARA and night businesses, ACC licensing, councillors, and Police Scotland (formerly Grampian Police). It is a delicate balance, which BARA would seek to maintain going forward. However, BARA does not wish to have to contend with greater degrees of such behaviour.

Regards,

Lorcan O’Connor

COPY Bon Accord Residents Association (BARA)

Freedom Of Information Request – to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) 2 May 2019.

Purpose: To present the FOI request, and to explain the concerns which underpin the request, by reference to source documents. BARA has discussed FOI with Ross Stephenson.

BACKGROUND

1. Following the consultation phase of EN03 in 2018, ACC letter [2] advised that “officers now intend to meet with the objectors, including those who made representations via the Bon Accord Residents Association to discuss their issues and concerns. BARA is appreciative of this additional review phase afforded by ACC and has sought to inform itself by meeting with various parties. BARA looks forward to similar positive dialogue going forward.
2. In Q1 2019 BARA met with ACC Roads and Planning officials [6]. This was a helpful exchange. A key view expressed by BARA is that it is unclear if the EN03 project is solely about pedestrianisation in the EN03 footprint, or potentially about NIGHT ECONOMY plans, because ACC letters and documents (outwith EN03) point to Night Economy aspirations.
3. Recently it has become apparent that BARA has not seen, nor previously requested MAPS which show indicative locations of ACC NIGHT ECONOMY aspirations going forward. This may be a source of misunderstanding between ACC and BARA. BARA seeks to minimise such misunderstanding by using FOI request.

FOI REQUEST

1. ACC CEO letter [1], refers to “encouraging an increase in the night time economy within a specific area”. NOTE: There is no map to indicate where night time economy zones may be permitted.
FOI REQUEST #1 – please provide documents on file with ACC which identify the specific area of anticipated night time economy increase referred to in Letter [1]. If possible, please provide a Map to locate these areas.
Note: The primary region of interest to BARA is Langstane Place, Justice Mill.
2. The 2019 Main Issues Report [4] states an aspiration to a 24 hour city centre economy. The report does not refer to the EN03 project [5] or show a map of proposed 24 hour economy zones.
FOI REQUEST #2- please provide documents on file with ACC which identify zones of permissible 24 hour night economy working relevant to Main Issues Report [2]. If possible, please provide a Map to locate these areas.
Note: the primary region of interest to BARA is Langstane Place, Justice Mill.
4. Letter [2] refers to Police Scotland indentifying “road concerns”.
FOI request #3: Please provide documents on file with ACC which show the comments from Police Scotland on EN03 project [3], and the request for comments from ACC to Police Scotland on EN03 project.

BARA Concerns - Traffic Noise, and ANTI-Social behaviour.

1. Under EN03 - The section of road from Hardgate, U-Turn into Justice Mill Lane and continuation into Bon Accord Terrace/Crescent will become an unwanted FOCUS for additional **traffic noise** (from vehicles dropping off/collecting revellers) if Justice Mill Lane and Langstane are pedestrianised per EN03. This would directly impact the amenity of adjacent residences. If 24 hour economy is also permitted, this could have further negative impact. See FOI request #3.
2. If night economy increase or 24 hour working is permitted along or near Langstane Place and Justice Mill Lane, this could lead to **increased late night antisocial behaviour** from more revellers, lingering close to BARA residences and gardens. Note: This would disturb the equilibrium between residents and night economy businesses, arising from a long-standing management of anti-social behaviour by BARA, Police Scotland, Night Time Businesses, ACC Licensing officials and Councillors. BARA has documentary evidence showing ten years of joint action to contain the anti-social behaviour problem near BARA. See FOI requests 1,2.

References

[1] Letter from Aberdeen City Council (Angela Scott, CEO), MP044873 – Pedestrianisation of City Centre, Dated 17 July 2018 to Kevin Stewart MSP.

[2] Letter from Aberdeen City Council (Rob Polkinghorne, COO), FS-Case-91058711 Pedestrianisation of City Centre, Dated 21 January 2019 to Kevin Stewart MSP. This letter passed to BARA by Kevin Stewart.

[3]. The link in letter [1]

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/gov.uk/ieListdocuments.aspx?CId=619&MId=6180&Ver=4>, which contains minutes of Operational Delivery Committee 19 April 2018.

Page 58, Section 3.1.

[4] Aberdeen City Local Development Plan 2019 Main Issues Report

[5] Aberdeen City Masterplan. 2016. Project EN03.

[6] Email From M Gray (Acting Chair BARA) to R S (ACC), dated 09 April 2019, Subject Attachment 1.pdf