Correspondence with SHMU

Torry’s Vision Magazine

Refusal to publish article

Here is the chain of emails, ending with my unanswered email to SHMU of 20 August. The article, despite being backed up fully line by line was not printed and no explanation made.

1. I send SHMU an article for their magazine, Torry’s Vision

*-----Original Message-----
From: sgvk27* *<sgvk27@aol.com>* *To: @shmu.org.uk
Sent: Sun, 19 Jul 2015 22:04
Subject: Article for next Torry's Vision magazine*

*Dear Ms XXXX

I was pleased to read in the latest edition of Torry's Vision that people who live in Torry can submit articles for publication, and that your submission date for the next issue is 4th of August.

Attached therefore please find my article and two accompanying photographs.  I look forward to seeing  this in your next issue.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne* Kelly

2. After chasing for an update on 27 July, I am asked if the article could be a letter instead. I think everyone who reads newspapers, magazines and periodicals understands the weight given to letters as opposed to feature articles

*-----Original Message-----
From: @shmu.org.uk
To: sgvk27
CC: @shmu.org.uk
Sent: Mon, 3 Aug 2015 11:39
Subject: Re: Article for next Torry's Vision magazine*

*Hi Suzanne,

Hope you had a good weekend. I was just wondering how you wanted to proceed with the idea of a letter for the magazine?

We have an editorial meeting tomorrow afternoon so I'm trying to get everything organised so I can show the team.

Thanks,
SHMU*

3. I explain to SHMU that as a Torry resident who has read all about the city’s rangers’ perspective on Tullos Hill in their previous issues that I want to present a different side.

*On 03/08/2015 11:47,* *sgvk27@aol.com* *wrote:*

*Dear SHMU*

*I would prefer to have this as an article.  If it gets rejected, I will submit it as a letter, but I will also be interested in the explanation.*

*Every issue of Torry's Vision seems to have an entire page dedicated to the writings of Aberdeen City Council's rangers.  Their comments about Tullos Hill and what happened there is certainly biased and one sided in that they support the 'Tree for Every Citizen' scheme and have never presented the other side.  If this is a magazine for the residents of Torry to have articles published in, then my article should definitely go in, perhaps with the council having right of reply in an article or letter form.  Perhaps the article should now also reflect that despite the city agreeing at the petitions committee to supply me with the entire costs of the 'Tree for Every Citizen Scheme' at the end of April, it is now August, and no information has been supplied.*

*My article tells what happened at the meeting of the petitions committee, and if any parts of it are deemed 'one sided' or biased, then these should be pointed out to me, and they can, if need be, be amended.*

*In any event I will be very keen to hear not only SHMU's decision about this article of mine, but also to learn how many other articles have been submitted for your next issue by Torry residents, and whether or not they have been selected.*

*Thank you for your assistance.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Suzanne Kelly*

4. SHMU want the article about Tullos Hill in Torry to relate more directly to the residents of Torry. They again want it as a letter, It remains to be seen how the edition that came out, with a full page of photos of SHMU’s birthday party, and tips on judging expensive wine by bottle weight were of more direct relevance to Torry’s residents. It should be noted that if I wanted to print the article in Aberdeen Voice, I would have submitted it to Aberdeen Voice. If SHMU were independent, open-minded, inclusive, and serving the people of Torry with their glossy colour magazine, then why exactly didn’t this piece go in?

-----Original Message-----
*From: SHMU
To: sgvk27* *<sgvk27@aol.com>* *Sent: Mon, 10 Aug 2015 14:54
Subject: Re: Article for next Torry's Vision magazine*

*Hi Suzanne,

The Editorial Team discussed your submission at their recent meeting and they were happy to include it in the magazine, but felt that it would need to be shorter and wondered if you could relate it more directly to residents of Torry and how they have reacted to the petition.

They felt that it would be better for the piece to appear as a letter in the magazine and they suggested that you may wish to consider publishing the full story in Aberdeen Voice and adding a link in the letter to this article?*

 *Could you let me know how you wish to proceed and I will feed this back to the Editorial Team.*

5. Success! They will include my article! HOWEVER, they want comments from the people/organisations identified. How many news articles have you ever read where every person or institution mentioned has input a comment?

*20thAugust – SHMU to me*

*Hi Suzanne*

*I have spoken to the Editorial Team and they have agreed to include your article in the magazine, however they have asked me to let you know that, as it is being submitted as an article, you would need to get comments from the people/organisations who are identified in the article.*

*I am aware that this may take some time so wondered if you'd prefer to leave the article until the next edition, depending on how long it will take. We could also help get a response to your article if you would prefer?*

*Can you let me know your thoughts on this please?*

*Thanks, SHMU*

6. SHMU were sent an article with a footnote and links for every claim made; this was sent on 20th August, the same day they asked for comments from the people/organisations identified. I never heard from them again. No, I never bothered to call Aileen Malone to see if she wanted to discuss the deer slaughter and money wasted on Tullos Hill’s tree plantation with me for publication.

The person I was corresponding with offered that the editorial decisions were not theirs. I don’t blame the correspondent; I would have wanted to divorce myself from this particular decision myself (had I been in a position where I’d have to make such a decision, that is).

For the record, SHMU has never approached me, the ‘Save the Tullos Hill deer’ group, or any animal charities such as Animal Concern Advice Line to the best of my knowledge when printing articles about how wonderfully things are going on the hill in the rangers’ minds. Could there be a connection in SHMU receiving funding from Aberdeen City Council and the types of articles they print or don’t print? Perhaps we should be told.

*Dear SHMU*

*Herewith the footnoted article.  It shows all of the historic, easily found detail you could possibly need to justify publication.*

*It is very apparent that Aileen Malone will not discuss this matter at all.  Your editorial team may feel free to cut out the sentence that refers to her.*

*It is refreshing to hear that your editorial team checks all details and claims made to such a high standard, and ensures all aspects of publication are fair.*

*Aside from Ms Malone, who you can cut if you wish, please let me know what needs commentary.  All of this material has previously been published by  STV, the Scottish SPCA, etc.*

*Here is the article; the attachments will follow in my next email.*

*Thank you in advance for publishing the piece.*