

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Annual Report – March 2013

Meetings

The Community Council met throughout the year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Old Town House. We were regularly joined at these meetings by Councillor Milne and Councillor Noble.

Though the University no longer has a representative at our monthly meetings, we did have discussions every three or four months with a Senior Vice Principal on issues of mutual concern. Professor Albert Roger presently holds the remit for community engagement.

OACC was also represented on the City's Community Council Forum which met bi-monthly and the Civic Forum which met quarterly. As such we also had input into city-wide issues and had a forum to highlight our issues which may be of wider concern.

We welcomed Fraser Lovie from Aberdeen University, who gave us an update on the proposals for the Rocking Horse Nursery.

Newsletter and Web-site

Keeping in contact with our local community is a key priority and much of year's business centred around reviewing and commenting on the community planning issues. We published two issues of our newsletter (The Auld Town News) this year. The newsletter is always well-received.

Further information on planning issues affecting Old Aberdeen and other local news is published on our web-site www.OLDABDERDEEN.ORG.UK.

Community/Planning Issues

Controlled Parking Zone

The CPZ came into operation in Autumn 2011. A review and consultation exercise will be carried out in February 2013 and report will be sent back to the ACC Committee in September 2013.

College Bounds

We are pleased to report that the 'new device' which turns the traffic lights to green when buses approach has been implemented. Many car drivers are still illegally driving through the red lights. However, 'Operation Rowan' has had a positive impact and the number is decreasing.

Friends of Seaton Park

The City Council supported the creation of a Friends of Seaton Park and a webpage and facebook page has been hosted to support their activities. This group will ensure that ACC will continue to take good care of the park.

Boundaries

Following the elections in September, with the redrawing of the CC boundaries OACC's no longer covers Sunnybank but now extends down to Mounthooly Way, Spital and King's Crescent. As a result we lost some members and gained others!

Individual Planning Applications

Over the year, as a statutory planning body, we examined and commented on proposals for local signage, bungalow extensions, HMO's. Throughout the year OACC also had various conversations regarding the felling of trees in our area (St Machar's Cathedral, Bede House Court, and University Road).

Strategic Development Plan Main Issues/Third Don Crossing

Aberdeen City Council continue with plans for the Third Don Crossing from Tillydrone to Grandholm despite vociferous opposition from local communities in Old Aberdeen, Tillydrone, Grandholm and George Street. Following a ruling in early 2012, from a public enquiry, allowing the use of compulsory purchase orders to build the Third Don Crossing it was hoped to make an appeal to the Court of Session however the costs involved in this appeal eventually prevented an appeal being made. Once again our city councilors have failed to listen to the wishes & legitimate concerns our local community (update received with thanks from Gordon Mutch).

And lastly a thank you

On behalf of OACC I would like to thank Christine Burgess for her untiring work and cheerfulness through her six-year period as Chair. Thanks also go to all the members of the Community Council who willingly gave up their time to read documents, attend meetings, write letters, and distribute the newsletters.

Isobel M. Aitken
Chairman