

- Old Aberdeen Community Council (OACC) – AGM April 2009 Report from the Chair

- **Introduction**

As a result of the Scottish Government consultation on a model National Constitution for Community Councils and Draft Code of Conduct for Community Councillors in April 2008 OACC realized that its own Constitution required an annual general meeting. This has been an oversight and is now being rectified.

- **Membership**

After the elections of September 2006 Old Aberdeen Community Council set out with 10 members. Morag Paterson has since resigned, Dewi Morgan and Trevor Stack have been co-opted, Kevin Guyan has been hired as minutes secretary. The current community councillors are as follows:

Christine Burgess, Chair	David Hutchison
Simon Barker, Vice-Chair	Clive Kempe
Isobel Aitken, Treasurer	Graham McKechnie
Dewi Morgan, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster	Gordon Mutch
Graham Abraham	Trevor Stack

- **Meetings:**

Meetings have been held regularly on the third Tuesday of each month in the Old Town House in the High Street from 7.30 – 9.30 p.m and these meetings have been attended by our three local councillors and representatives from the University, the Student Association and the Police. They are also always open to local residents.

As the focus of the March 2009 meeting was to introduce the Community Council and its functioning to the whole of our local community council area, this was held in the newly re-opened Dunbar Street Hall, both to allow for larger numbers than the Old Town House can accommodate and to celebrate the completion of the refurbishment work.

- **Newsletter and web-site**

The communication between OACC and residents has been hugely improved with the establishing of the Old Aberdeen web-site which can be accessed at:

www.oldaberdeen.org.uk

and the resurrection of our newsletter, The Auld Toon News, with issues in September 2008 and March 2009.

- **Key community/planning issues**

Safety

- the upgrade to the lighting in the High Street has been completed and the improvements

 - to the lighting in Don Street and the Chanonry are due.

- 20 mph limits in College Bounds and humps in University Road have been introduced.

- plans to establish a bollard at the junction of University Road and College Bounds, though agreed, seem to have stalled.

Controlled Parking Zone:

This is currently the major issue being addressed. In September 2007 OACC wrote a letter of representation to the Head of Planning with regard to the New Library, highlighting the problem of indiscriminate on-street student parking, the loss of 150 car parking spaces and questioning the parking solutions proposed. The planning permission for the New Library that hinged on an agreement between the City Council and the University for the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone has now been signed and the process to establish a CPZ is now underway. OACC invited Roads Department Officials to attend a meeting in February 2008 and March 2009 and has twice written to the Department emphasizing in both letters residents' opposition to any permit charges.

Draft Structure Plan/Haudagain roundabout/Third Don Crossing

Members of OACC have attended meetings and consultations about the Haudagain roundabout, the Berryden Corridor, the Third Don Crossing and the whole Draft Structure Plan. Letters of representation have been sent with regard to the Third Don Crossing and the unacceptable level of traffic congestion that will result should the current proposed siting of the bridge be pursued.

- **Neighbourhood Community Action Plan**

After much discussion and many meetings, the Old Aberdeen Neighbourhood Community Action Plan was finally agreed and signed off in March 2009 and it highlights the main areas of concern and action for the year ahead. However, the City Council structures that will support these plans are still unclear as the City divisions of North, Central and South are removed.

- **Finance**

We have been able to support a number of projects with our small improvement grants including a dishwasher for Dunbar Street Hall and playground equipment for Seaton and Sunnybank Parks. We have welcomed the last round of this scheme.

- **Elections**

The next round of elections to the Community Council will take place in September 2009

and it is hoped that Old Aberdeen continues to have a strong and representative community voice.