

Old Aberdeen Community Council

Public Meeting 22nd May 2007
Dunbar Street Hall

Panel: Cllr Norman Collie, Mr Angus Donaldson (Director of Estates, University of Aberdeen),

Mr Niall Dowds (First Bus), Mr Pete Leonard (Director, Neighbourhood Services Central)

PC Steve Mackenzie, Cllr Jim Noble, Cllr Richard Robertson

Chair: Christine Burgess

Attendance 63

(Lewis Macdonald MSP attended briefly at the beginning : happy to receive parliamentary issues directly from constituents)

The main issues: Traffic in Old Aberdeen (esp High St)

Crime (drug dealing)

Better & more appropriate buses

Unique Historical status of Old Aberdeen & its

community

Traffic calming measures – ‘long time waiting’

- None planned, waiting for 3rd Don Crossing developments.

Why nothing done about High Street traffic problems?

- Some effort from Council regarding College Bounds access to High St. University wish to see a blocking bollard (permitting Bus access). University prepared to ‘go halves’.

Why cycles allowed to go wrong way down High St

Will be prosecuted (Police), but poor signage

Too many signs already!

Traffic issues and access limited to High St – need for broader approach to these problems. Need to consider needs of community and traffic flow overall.

Police monitoring shows 600 vehicles per day access via College Bounds
Use of police time re traffic controversial – but pedestrian safety also an issue.

Camera to catch offenders as an idea.
Suggestion of bus free zone between College Bounds and St Machar Drive
(no entry from College Bounds)
Size of buses, appropriateness for High St.
Parking permits for visitors to residents not available in Old Aberdeen.
Why not? Can't rent a car as a resident!

Drug dealing near to St Machar Cathedral – blatant in afternoon. Police
committed to addressing this, need evidence.
How will reporting issue of drug dealing help? What about cameras. Police
ask who would monitor the camera.
Escalating daytime crime around Seaton Park – what can be done?

Policy on University landbank? Aim to consolidate and rationalise. Some is
'dormant' and will not be sold. Other areas more active for
development. Hillhead is committed site of student village.
Affordable housing issue affects all, including the University.
What is status of Dunbar Hall site? Has been contractually 'tied in' to
Unite until now – hope that University will have access to this land
again – no plan yet. Possibilities include accommodation, academic
building
High Street former Coach works – aiming for a commercial development
(Restaurant/Coffee shop/Bookshop) with retained frontage on High
St. Burrell Company involved. 4 years since these plans first
discussed.

Cheyne Road cul-de-sac traffic joins Dunbar St traffic onto Don St – why
priority given to Cheyne Road.

Why Double deckers down High St ? Promise to look into numbers using
service – possibility of smaller buses at non peak times.
What about Electric Buses? First Bus looking into newer bus stock which
is low emission environmentally 'friendly'.

Level of commitment from Councillors to Historic area of Old Aberdeen?-
They share the sense of value and are committed to it. Cllr Collie to
go on planning committee and will listen to ideas. Aiming to work
together.

What is the commitment of the University to the community? Huge
numbers of students (14000) – any room for thinking about the
residents?? What is the Town House for – not true to spirit of the
Lottery Grant?? Feeling swamped by the University.
Council needs to support our community – funds for Hall

3rd Don river crossing will not help make area attractive – waiting for a report at present.

Tillydrone CC meeting about 3rd Don crossing generated 10 community group representatives from across Aberdeen & opposed by each. 3rd Don crossing will create huge volumes of traffic through Old Aberdeen.

Poor pedestrian route from City centre.

Old Machar Bar 'T' sign in conservation area. Is Council committed to Old Aberdeen?

Lighting on High St – need to be appropriate, not like Meston Walk 'any old light will do'.

Community needs to push for more Heritage funding from City (Douglas Campbell is contact).

Thanks to all for attending – we will try to act on these issues.

Encouragement to become involved in OACC.