

Post-It comments by Ideas Wall headings

(Note that all Post-Its have been typed 'as-is'. I have corrected spelling occasionally but not the grammar as that could change the sense of the comment)

Listed as posted under the categories on the Ideas Wall; Strengths, Weaknesses, Priorities

Strengths

Seaton Park (& Friends of)

Cruickshank Gardens

Seaton Park is great, so is the play area and the fact that community planted fruit trees. All it needs now is café!

Green spaces, splash of colour – the area needs more. University is doing ok. Council just take stuff out.

Seaton Park – great green space. Enhances community spirit.

Friends of Seaton Park have transformed the park. Big Thanks.

Seaton Park & Botanics.

Seaton Park

Green space opposite the Mosque is excellent.

Peaceful (usually)

Make it dog friendly area. I don't have a dog but love interacting with them, it would help if there were provisions for them and their owners.

Proactive and well organised community council

Heritage Society (& Friends of)

Sports facilities are fantastic

Good sports facilities very close.

Great library, sports centre, couple of cafes and bars, all in small area!

Save St Peter's. School should stay where it is.

Love the area, especially around University of Aberdeen

Rural feel to the area and within walking distance of Aberdeen City Centre.

A lovely place to walk and take visitors and friends.

The core of Old Aberdeen is beautiful and must be protected

Beautiful area full of character and history

History and architecture

Architectural interest

St Machar Cathedral – the only church in Aberdeen that is open 365 days a year

St Machar Cathedral

Heritage

Kings College

Love view of Kings College in the sun. And at night when lit up!

Some beautiful buildings

Beautiful buildings and surroundings.

Touristy – could raise property prices if some property is things to keep tourists – toilets, tea/coffee, merchandise.

Conveniently self contained – sports, schools, park.

A few places to dine pre / post concert.

Family friendly child play area other than Seaton – this will hopefully attract families to the area.

Beginning to get coffee shop and café – great for visitors and residents.

Seaton Park and Botanic Gardens are a great asset

Peaceful atmosphere of High Street and surroundings

Cobbled streets and lanes

There is a will among most agencies to work together; OACC; The People

Beautiful area and buildings

The History

Seaton Park

A beautiful historical and quiet area of the city to live in.

Historical buildings.

Community Spirit.

Local heritage.

Beautiful Seaton Park

Lived in Orchard Road 20 years

Love the area

The OACC. Thankyou.

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#### A DEFINED COMMUNITY

Diverse community it just needs pulling together instead of pushing each other

History, Heritage (buildings and open spaces)

Character of distinct village community.

Shared love of area.

Beauty, tranquillity, peace in so many parts.

Birdsong on almost all streets, due to abundant trees & gardens.

Being lucky with all this: The Sports Village, Seaton Park, Kings College, The Links Golf Course, Pittodrie Stadium, The Beach, Northern Bowling Club.

The area is of natural, historical and architectural significance and beauty. The co-existence of University and community make for a special character which should be strengthened (but maybe needs to be navigated with greater sensitivity).

Heritage

People and their level of community involvement.

Beautiful historic setting (domestic housing off High St included).

Open buildings (Cathedral, Cruickshank, KC Chapel often).

Cobbled streets an asset, precinct of Kings etc..

Services by several buses (King St & Bedford as well as 20) but this is not clear to outsiders.

Buildings, lack of traffic.

Historic, peaceful area, unique in the city.

Good transport links to city centre and beyond.

Wide range of facilities within easy reach.

Lovely area of great historic value.

A sense of belonging to healthy community.

Beautiful surroundings, great parks and playgrounds.

Beautiful buildings and trees. Lots of history and character.

Friendly people.

The unique character of Old Aberdeen, retaining medieval features including Kings College

Good neighbours and feeling of belonging.

## **Weaknesses**

Dustbins left on roadside

Bin storage

Bins on Don St can't be taken in because no gates. Use designated area for communal bins.

Rubbish bins

Bins, ones that you can put hazardous trash in. There is very little provision around Old Aberdeen.

Dumping of rubbish in bins

Bins on pavement 24/7

More and more potholes

Potholes

Roads, potholes – they simply need improvement

Cars going through bus lane

Bike shop on High St. To be located as it causes nuisance in summertime spilling out on pavement, polluting pathways, grass verges.

Bicycle lanes inadequate

Cycle routes are a mess. Encouraging bikes onto pavements has endangered pedestrians.

Cyclists on the pavement.

Tarmac on cobbles

Cycling infrastructure – new roads that feel safe for cycling and people

Tarmac on cobbles

Traffic calming!

Speeding traffic on main streets. Impact traffic calming.

Speeding traffic.

Speed of traffic on College Bounds

Speeding traffic

Traffic rules to be enforced.

Traffic camera on High St / College Bounds will help hopefully.

Not cycling friendly area.

Cleaning of streets and drains. 'Sweep streets', do away with tongs.

Roads with setts need re-constructing.

Drain gullies no longer being proactively cleared

Flooding on Streets

Too many HMOs

Too many HMOs

Too many empty properties

Not enough residential in High St

Accommodation for families.

Why is Be-Cycle on High St? Highly mobile group, prime trading property.

Loose stones on pavements and kerbs

Occasional dog fouling.

Fouling on pavements

Disgusting fouling on pavements

Dog fouling

St Machar's Cathedral is a major attraction but is unfunded except by congregation

Litter being thrown through gates and into gardens

Seagulls. Put spikes on chimney stacks to prevent birds nesting.

Sunnybank Park inaccessible to anyone needing car access

Bus fares too high

Erratic no.20 bus times after 4pm

Flooding on street corners, blocked grates

Lack of community facilities

Winter – designate gritting spaces (use sand, not salt).

Influence of university – can be detrimental to non-student residents

Losing its one primary school!

Seaton Park needs café

No central planning.

Needs tourist info.

Museum and touristy shops to foster Old Aberdeen identity

More TREES are needed to ensure better air. I saw large number of them cut around Bedford area.

Sunnybank Park is unacceptable as it is

Back of Sunnybank Park needs attention – broken glass / overgrown etc.

Climate change adaptation

Forgotten area by ACC. Aberdeen Uni campus rather than Aberdeen Uni being part of OA

St Nicholas kirk gets ACC financial support, so why not St Machar? Which is open all day, every day?

Gutters leaking water (when it rains hard) onto pedestrians on College Bounds & Taylor Building on High St

Gate to St Peter's cemetery falling apart

Uni pressure on the area

Lack of activities / representation for children / young adults

Lack of feeling part of a community

Never see community police

No library

Open tearooms at Kings College

Open gift shop at Kings College

Major problem of too many HMOs

Too many homes being converted into university offices and student facilities

Lack of community facilities – post office, library, café, local shops etc.

Historic buildings owned by the University not being properly cared for

Not enough information for tourists

Sunnybank Park

Lack of engagement of all in consultations e.g. schools, residents of sheltered housing etc.

University – lack of timely care for listed buildings

HMOs

University properties lying empty, when they could be let to families

The potholes in the roads (and specifically the non-cobbled parts of the Chanonry.

Traffic snarl-ups at peak times, on St Machar Drive

Communication problems between the University and the Community.

The University is the dominant key player in the community!

State of Roads, especially Elphinstone Road. No of footfall. Supposition; sense that we live on University campus.

My worst problem is the chemist. This chemist dispenses methadone. This means drug addicts often pass on foot or cycle through our area, they often bring with them dogs uncontrolled and with no means of lifting dog poo. (I'm not saying we should not help these people).

Councillors & officials – too many yes people to say more HMOs - NO! NOMORE HMOs!!! Try them in your street for change and see how you get on!!

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Dominated by University and students

Restrictive controls by city council but not enough participation or actions – it's a bit 'do as we say, but not as we do'!

Areas of concentration of anti-social / criminal behaviour.

Vast overprovision of HMOs and other short term lets, leading to damaging residential imbalance in community.

Wrongly laid granite setted roads

Unsympathetic alterations to some historic buildings.

Neglect of historic properties, especially by University (various, exterior and interior).

Too many HMOs.

Too much HMOs' bin rubbish and late night noise, music, screaming, singing.

Pavements and pot holes.

The deterioration of the local community aspect, especially around the High St is particularly worrying. This goes hand in hand with a lack of amenities, places for socialising and indeed of security, during the out-of-term periods in particular.

The University riding roughshod over the local community.

The lack of local commerce and entertainment

Contrast between AU terms and the vacations. Too few residents going about ordinary life; too many multiple occupancies.

Students not always best neighbours to working families.

ACC does not publicise Old Aberdeen sufficiently.

Tales of bus drivers not being sure.

Litter.

Can be crowded when the university is in session.

Uneven pavements and road surfaces difficult for the infirm, wheelchair users, people pushing buggies.

Lack of housing available for young families.

Transient student population.

Weekend drunkenness, empty shops.

Too many family homes being taken over for University offices.

Parking issues and no bus gate YET.

Not enough shops / cafes outside of the university.

Cleanliness and maintenance of housing stock.

Vulnerability to being regarded on 'campus' and the university as dominant to the disadvantage of residential presence.

Priorities

Dedicated cycle path along Spital High Street

Cars reduced to one line or access.

Install the preplacement bus gate on College bounds to limit the rat run and protect students and other pedestrians

Clarify future for St Peters School

High St No 15. University must decide what to do with this family home

Accom. for families

Potholes. Council does not know who owns stretch of the Chanonry between St Machar and Don St. They do not want to repair the deep potholes

Need to set limit on HMO density – 12% per census area (C.O.A.)

Long term unoccupied domestic properties need to be brought back into use – but not as student accommodation

What is happening to the orchard behind St Machar Cathedral?

Old Aberdeen has been ruined by HMOs

High St & College Bounds have too many offices and university facilities. Permanent residents needed to keep community alive.

Pot holes mended on Don St / Cheyne Rd

Less HMOs (students good, HMOs bad)

HMO reduction

Better policing of HMOs. Residents and owners re. obligations – rubbish collection etc. so that bins not out all week.

More family homes needed to keep the community a living, growing place

Community centre established as focal point

Re-lay setted roads

Seaton Park is nice, if there are more public events, more people would love to use it.

Use of empty area near Bede Court owned by ACC for either storage of communal bins or off street parking *(land is actually owned by UoA – comment by Dewi M.)*

Keep High St a residential area – no more university uses

Dog park in Seaton Park (2m high fence) this would attract more people to the park

Allow taxis down Bedford Rd to the University

Cleaning of pavement

Sort out bus gate on College Bounds

Open Kings College tea rooms!

Make Old Aberdeen a 12month per year community. Need more families and mixed housing.

University needs to show more responsibility to duties of maintaining 'their' buildings

Family Homes are the lifeblood of the community. We must not lose any more, especially in the High Street.

Open the gift shop at Kings College

A Doctors surgery!

Stop bicycles on pavements (either cycling or tied to drain pipes).

Visit Aberdeenshire – advertise Old Aberdeen

Proper cycle routes (road bike accessible)

No more university facilities displacing family homes

Improve path along Don past Donside Village

Local policing

Decide what we do with Old Aberdeen House after St Peter's moves out.

Museum (bigger)!

Library!

I would like to see HMOs limited

Entertainments

Bring back police station to High St or Spital

Benholm's Lodging / Wallace Tower – what now

Community Police – where are you? Please walk around Old Aberdeen!

Localised density of HMOs need to be limited

Funding of repairs to St Machars' Cathedral

University to find a new use for ex Rocking Horse Nursery

Too many student housing

University to allow free open use of car parks in evenings and weekends

Remove broken traffic lights on College Bounds

Funding for improvements to community facilities. Is the Common Good Fund used?

Improve cycling – smoother cobbles, make cars pay attention to cycle lanes.

Press for limits on HMOs to help family housing

More cohesion between council planning and HMO licencing to ensure that area does not end up as a dormitory!

Support clubs like Kings College Tennis Club which show concern for local community. Press the university to be a better neighbour.

Retain St Peter's School

Speed on College Bounds

Better road signs near bus entry => High Street

Loose stones on pavements / kerbs

Prevent the community from being stifled by ever increasing university presence and encroachment.

Halt the increase in HMOs and look to reduce their number.

At all costs, preserve the historic landscape, buildings etc. of Old Aberdeen.

Sunnybank Park

Getting opinions of all and all groups and agencies working together.

Seaton Park could offer more as a base for sporting activities and natural history courses and studies.

University to be more genuinely consultative and to be more proactive and prompt in care of listed buildings

Affordable public transport (and free to those who need it)

Free access to the sports facilities for folks on restricted incomes.

Fix the potholes

Open up empty University homes to families.

Could excess University Halls of Residence (e.g. off High St) be let to public service workers, rather than being left empty?

Close collaboration between the University and the Community.

Safety needs to be enhanced to reduce crime and drugs.

Road maintenance

The Bus gate – top University Road.

How about helping to eradicate the grey squirrel, bring back the reds.

Stop the rot! Bring back the real Old Aberdeen please ASAP. Thankyou.

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Appearance – roads maintenance, .... (*indecipherable*)

Improvement Plan

A 5 year strategy

Collaboration and cooperation is at the centre of all successful outcomes where we can all act with one goal that of advancement of Old Aberdeen as a community for ALL.

Urgently need HMO overprovision policy; maximum 10% per small area. Aim to spread concentrations evenly – for social cohesion.

No more family homes to be lost either in High St or College Bounds. Not one, even.

Address areas with anti-social problem behaviour. Return some sub-lets to mainstream social housing.

University to keep buildings in good repair, and cease practice of carrying out unauthorised works to historic buildings / conservation area.

Sort our pavements and road potholes, find a way to make HMOs' residents be responsible people please.

Community growth needs to be encouraged, with an increase in amenities (at least of their opening days and hours) and an emphasis on family housing. Additionally, better cooperation between University and community, should be encouraged, and a greater realisation that this is not predominantly a campus, but a historical old town and community, in which the University has also lived and breathed for the last 500 years.

Increase policing and improve lighting. Increase CCTV coverage to improve the area's safety.

Variety of house-holding.

More frequent bus service (20) out of term time.

Greater publicity for this area in tourist office.

University estates should consider making houses available for young families.

Conservation of this unique area.

More police *monitoring* (? *Word unclear*) at weekend nights.

We need more families and affordable homes for them.

Better cycle lanes.

Willowdale grid substation on willowdale place (between Kings St and Morrison's petrol station) hums loudly at night (often 1am – 4 am) and can be heard hundreds of meters away.

Maintaining the unique character and beauty of Old Aberdeen and not interfering with its ancient features including the cassettes on streets and pathways.

Keeping good relations between town and gown, & resisting the creeping 'campus' idea.

Providing better facilities (shops etc.) during university vacations for residents and tourists – about half the year!