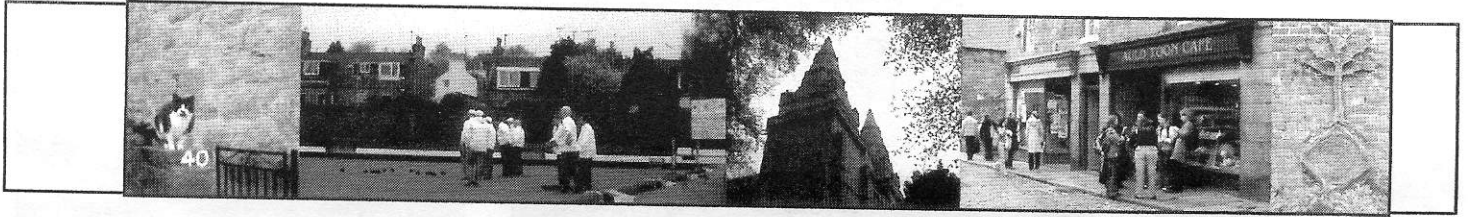
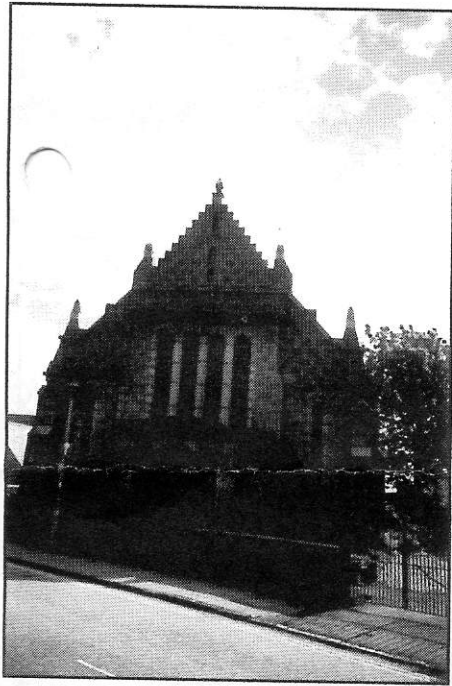


The Auld Toon News



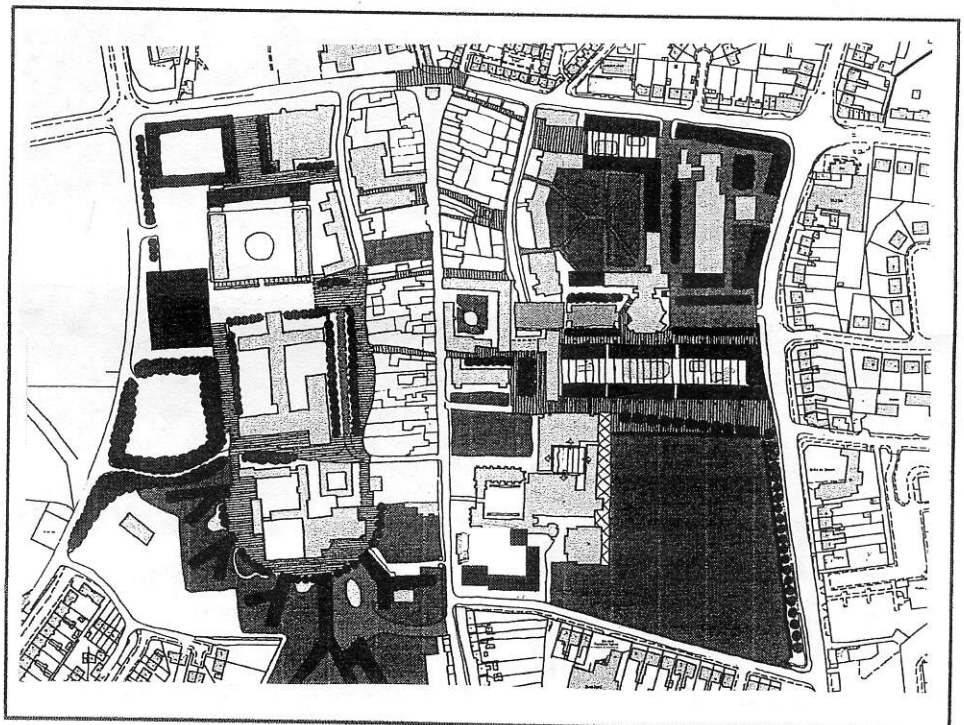
May 22 : Open meeting in Dunbar Street Hall



Old Aberdeen Community Council is holding an Open Meeting for all residents in the area on Tuesday, May 22 from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. in Dunbar Street Hall in Dunbar Street (off St Machar Drive). Come along and meet representatives from the University, the Council, First Bus and the police along with the new Councillors and key figures in the local community. This is your chance to raise the issues that concern you with the people who can influence the action. It is also an ideal opportunity to meet other people living in Old Aberdeen and you will be especially welcome if you are new to the area. We highlight some of the issues overleaf and look forward to a lively and informative evening.

Small Improvements grant 2007 for Dunbar Steet Hall

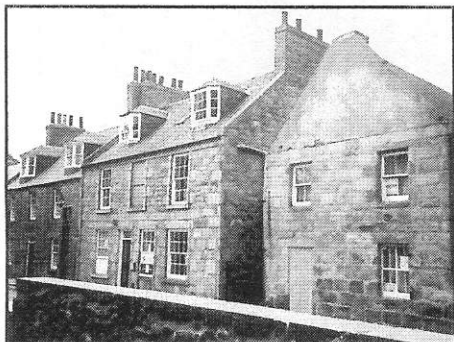
Last year we were able to help St Peter's PTA with the cost of new playground equipment. Much of this year's grant is going towards the cost of bringing the kitchen and the toilets in Dunbar Street Hall up to present-day standards. The kitchen is currently condemned and this severely restricts the activities that can take place. Considerable work has already been carried out on the roof, a new heating system has been installed and both halls re-decorated. The hall management committee is committed to the work and this will bring back a very welcome community centre to Old Aberdeen.



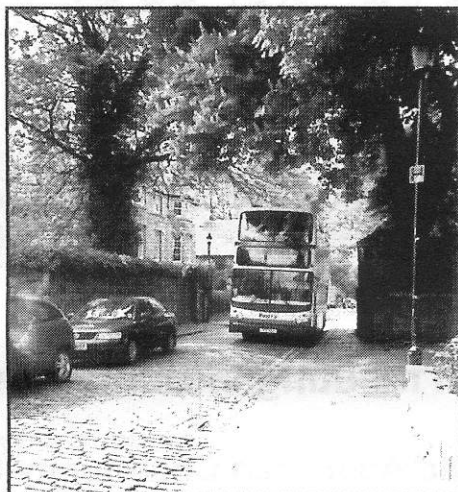
King's College Masterplan : Vision and Strategy

Just some of the issues

Empty long enough?



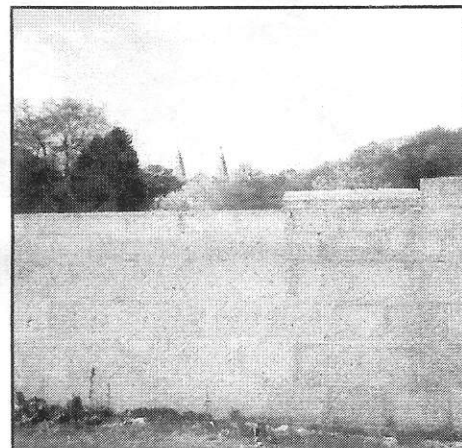
What can bring life back here to the High Street especially after 5 p.m.?



The No 20

Should these buses be double-deckers? Is this the best route to Hillhead? Should the High Street be for pedestrians and residents only?

What now for this site?



And what does land-banked mean?



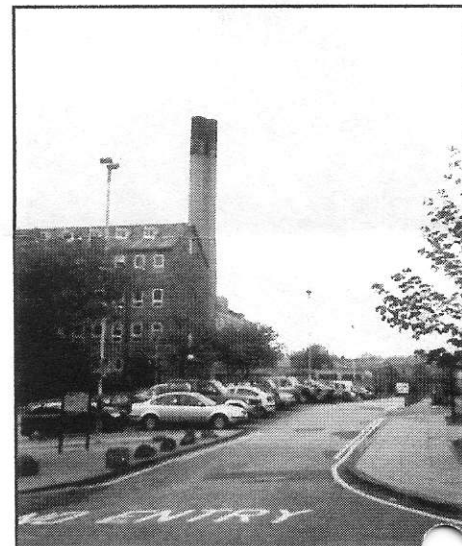
Cars, cars, cars!

So, what are the possible solutions? Shank's pony, subsidised bus fares, cross rail links, car sharing, residents' parking zones?



No Entry!!

How to get the message across?



New Library - bold and very big

Imagine a cube at the end of this road, its left side up to the height of the chimney, visible even from the High Street. Is it too big? Is it big enough? Is it right?



All spruced up and going where?



Safety in Seaton Park?

What is the safest route between Hillhead Halls and the University? And how best to improve security at St Machar's Cathedral?



No comment!

We can make a difference

So, the elections are over and the kaleidoscope has turned. Old Aberdeen is in a new "ward" along with Seaton and Tillydrone. We have three new Councillors of three different hues. We are in a new relationship with the Council that has re-organised itself into Neighbourhood Services North, Central (us) and South and has a new and welcome focus on community. It is against this backdrop that we are organising the Open Meeting on May 22 and invite you to come along.

Old Aberdeen so often seems to get quietly overlooked. It is emblazoned on the welcome boards to the City but it suffers from being increasingly seen as the University's 'campus'. It doesn't fit into any regeneration category and its place as the city's prime historic conservation area seems to be being repeatedly challenged with inappropriate planning proposals, left to the Community Council and local residents to contest.

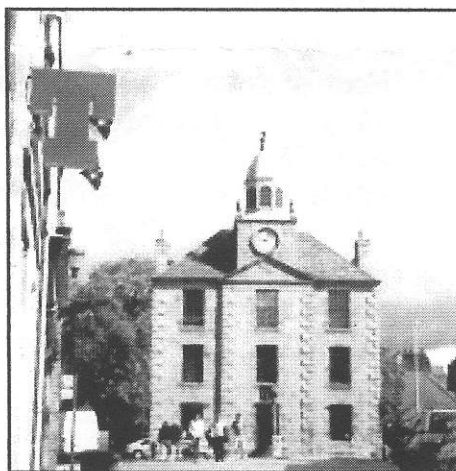
Old Aberdeen is a special part of the city with a special part to play. So, do please join us next Tuesday and be part of this new and open 'dialogue'. It's an opportunity to re-consider old issues and address new ones. It's an opportunity to have your say and be heard.

King's College Masterplan

We would like to encourage everyone to look at the University's long-term development plans which have been unveiled on their web-site. These can be accessed at: www.abdn.ac.uk/estates and downloaded as a pdf file. The plan takes a critical look at the sometimes haphazard development that has taken place, particularly during the rapid expansion in the 1960s and 70s, and it offers a fundamental re-think of the use of the land space on either side of the High Street to allow for significant University expansion. The 30-page document contains several maps and text which explains the broad-brush thinking underlying the proposals. We are keen to hear your views particularly at these early stages. Please contact any members of the Community Council if you unable to attend Tuesday's meeting.

Sustainable Travel Plan

With on-road overspill student parking continuing to irritate residents in Old Aberdeen and beyond, the University has finally published its Sustainable Travel Plan Consultation Document 2006 which includes the results of its travel survey and some interesting statistics. However, it is not a policy document. We understand the idea of a widespread controlled parking zone is being actively discussed by the Council and the Community Council has written in support of this approach. www.abdn.ac.uk/estates/environment/transport/sustainable_what_we_doing.php



Noisy Neighbours

Aberdeen City Council has a dedicated team of Noise Control Officers working to reduce anti-social noise complaints. The service operates daily between 9am and 4 pm and the hotline number for ongoing noise complaints is 0845 606 6548. For incidences requiring information or advice on domestic noise issues contact the team on 01224 523737.

T in the High Street !!

Yes, we have spoken to the Conservation Department about this sign. But it does raise the question of how enforceable the conservation area rules and regulations actually are. And how to get the relevant messages out before the signs appear.

Ekwendeni Fund

Two members of our community who have a long association with Malawi have recently set up the Ekwendeni Fund charity. Its aim is to support the local hospital and surrounding clinics and to relieve poverty and malnutrition by promoting and supporting farming and re-forestation. Working closely with three recent Malawian graduates from the University, four villages have now received goats and 70,000 seedlings have been planted. See www.theekwendenifund.co.uk For further information on mugs, donations and goats ring 487256.

