

The Auld Toon News

It's FREE!



Issue 10 - November 2009

The news-sheet of the
Old Aberdeen
Community Council



Controlled Parking Zone - Public Consultation !!

Well, you have hopefully seen the notices on the lampposts and will know that the public consultation phase for the proposed Controlled Parking Zone is now upon us.

Here's a quick summary of the issues:

The Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) is being proposed because Aberdeen University is instigating a number of developments, including building a new library, that will result in the loss of a great many parking spaces (the final total we believe will be around 260).

The Council expect the displaced cars will then try to find space in the area around the university - thus making residents parking much harder. Consequently, the city council required the Uni to fund (at over £500,000) the creation of this CPZ to protect the parking spaces for residents.

Parking permits in Aberdeen currently cost £80 for the first one, £120 for a second permit.

Previously, areas in Aberdeen which became controlled parking zones, notably around RGU and the Foresterhill hospital, received subsidised parking for several years. That option has not been offered to us.

Details of the proposals and the detail street plans may be viewed at St Nicholas House during office hours or can be accessed from their web site:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

click : 'C' in the A to Z / Current consultations / Controlled

Parking Proposals / Old Aberdeen, Seaton, Sunnybank & Tillydrone Areas

And there is a link from our web site too: www.oldaberdeen.org.uk - click on the Hot Issues link on the front page to **Controlled Parking Zone**. We will post here any updates as they occur and the webpage gives you an opportunity to post *your* comments on this issue.

If most people in an area say they do not want a CPZ, then it may be withdrawn in that area depending on the level of objections received and of course whether they are consistent in wanting to be withdrawn. However, if the parking then gets worse over the next few years, the Council is unlikely to do much about it as there will be no further obligation upon the university to fund such a change, and, as we know all too well, the City Council is broke.

We all have until **Wednesday 9th December** to send in our comments and objections. Remember that if there are no objections, the CPZ will probably be put in place as currently described. If there are clear objections from the community, then these will hopefully be listened to by the City Council, so it is very important to write.

Finally, *do* write or email individually - *don't* collect names on petitions - they are not effective.

Open meeting to review the CPZ plans and discuss the issues

The Community Council is going to hold two open meetings where you can look at the large scale plans in detail and talk to your Community Councillors and neighbours about the proposals. We hope to have a member of the City Roads Department at the evening meeting. The meetings will be:

Saturday morning Nov 28th, 10am until 11.30am at Dunbar St Hall - in the main hall

Tuesday evening Dec 1st, 7pm until 8.30pm at Dunbar St Hall - in small hall - please use side door

Sunnybank Park / St Machar Outdoor Centre

Thank you to everyone who completed the Questionnaire concerning possible loss of Sunnybank Park. We received 93 replies with 26 offers of help, and some useful and imaginative ideas for best retaining and developing the park. The questionnaire with a summary of the results and responses (anonymous) was sent to every Councillor attending the Aberdeen City Council Finance and Committee meeting on 17th September 2009. Responses (anonymous) to the questionnaire are posted in full on our website: www.oldaberdeen.org.uk

Aberdeen City Council continues to be unwilling to bear the cost of maintaining the park, but the report which is being presented to the Finance and Resources Committee on 12 November recommends a 6 month "window of opportunity" to develop our ideas into a business plan. The park is a designated Green Space (GS36) which does give it many safeguards.. The 1930s pavilion, however, has been badly vandalised (arson) and with an estimated cost of £80,000 for repair it is likely that it will have to be taken down. This is clearly unfortunate but we will remain optimistic and motivated!

Old Aberdeen Community Council has helped set up a steering group to build a business plan with the intent of retaining the park, with possible long term input to its management. The steering group will include other interested people from outwith the OACC catchment area (eg members from the Sunnybank Key Contacts group) and we invite anyone who would like to be involved to make contact with us at: sunnybank@oldaberdeen.org.uk.

We will be getting in touch with all those of you who have already indicated a willingness to help.

Linksfield Library

For those of you who missed the consultation meeting on the Community Learning Hubs at St Machar Academy on Monday 2nd November, there are still two consultation meetings to go:

Wednesday 18th November, 7 - 9 pm, at the Assembly Room Bridge of Don Academy, Braehead Way, Bridge of Don

Thursday 19th November, 7 - 9 pm at Aberdeen Grammar School Lecture Theatre, off Skene Street

The rationalising of community centres and community learning and development activity will affect Linksfield Library but it seems to be plans for the 50 metre swimming pool which will require its closure.

Do go along if you feel strongly about community libraries and their importance. We have no guarantee that Linksfield Library will be moved elsewhere.

Coffee morning for Seaton Park raised £££s

On Saturday 7th November, a coffee morning was arranged in Dunbar St Hall to raise money for Seaton Park. You may not realise it, but Seaton Park has had its funding drastically cut and the gardener no longer has means of buying new plants. This summer the Old Aberdeen Community Council made a small donation to help matters. Now this event, organised by residents living near the park, raised around £300 from coffee and the sale of plants and bring-and-buy items.

Thanks to all who organised the event, and those who spent their money.

Look out for future events - perhaps a Gardener's Question Time?

Remember to regularly check our web site www.oldaberdeen.org.uk for developments on these and any other issues that effect the Old Aberdeen area.

To contact the Old Aberdeen Community Council, send an email to mail@oacc.org.uk, or talk to any of the Community Councillors.