

DRAFT Old Aberdeen Action Plan for 2010

Rev B – 24 January 2010

Category	Action issue	Outcome sought
Community Facilities	Bus services – concerns over cost, frequency and regularity. Particular concerns that FirstBus are likely to withdraw the new No.29 over the summer months	That FirstBus commit to provide an improved service for the Old Aberdeen area, particularly the 20/29 route and the 19 route. That FirstBus should aspire to keep any fare increases to below rate of inflation. That we receive assurance from FirstBus that the 20 / 29 will continue to run a half hour service, weekdays and weekends, over the summer.
	Dunbar Street Hall continues to need support to ensure long term viability.	Dunbar Street Hall facilities are enhanced with
	The area requires facilities to encourage use of the Old Aberdeen area into the evening	The OACC will support applications to provide a bistro, restaurant type facility or other community oriented facilities.
	Many gardens in the area are unkempt and unused, or have become concrete deserts. This reduces visual quality for all and in many cases reduces shelter and food for all forms of wildlife	Council is asked to encourage, perhaps with a leafleting campaign, home owners to encourage upkeep of gardens to encourage families and wild life.
	That all available housing is being acquired by the University and others to provide temporary accommodation for the student population, with few properties available in the affordable housing category, so reducing the urban mix	Council and University to encourage and assist in the provision of affordable housing and rental in the area around the University and an increase in long term occupancy is achieved.
Community Safety	After several years campaigning by the Students representatives and the OACC, many streets in the area still have poorly lit streets	Council to complete the replacement of street lights on Don Street and schedule the upgrade of University Rd and Elphinstone Rd.
	Improve pavement condition (trip hazards).	Council to identify and reset displaced paving stones. Council to identify and publicise an efficient method for the public to advise the Council of such problems (process should ensure that the individual receives due acknowledgement).

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	<p>Roads surface poor in many areas, potholes appearing on many streets.</p> <p>The stone sets on Chanonry, High Street and College Bounds are in urgent need of maintenance and there would appear to be a real risk of the sets becoming unstable in the near future, leading to a need for a major restoration exercise.</p>	<p>Council to identify and fill potholes.</p> <p>Council insures that stone sets are stabilised by refilling gaps with tar, thus delaying a major road works.</p> <p>Council to identify and publicise an efficient method for the public to advise the Council of such problems (process should ensure that the individual receives due acknowledgement).</p>
	<p>Clearing of leaves etc. from roads and gullies considered to be inadequate in recent years, leading to local flooding and mess.</p>	<p>Council to make more effort to clear road gullies, particularly in Autumn and into winter.</p>
	<p>There are continued concerns raised regarding traffic speed and traffic management in the area.</p>	<p>Council removes College Bounds chicanes and replace with alternative solution.</p> <p>Council replaces current traffic light 'bus gate at College Bounds / University Row junction with a more effective solution.</p> <p>OACC urge the urgent adoption of 'no entry' signs with addendum 'except buses' as a short term solution, while the Council considers more complex options.</p>
	<p>Snow clearing on pavements was grossly inadequate, especially for the residents of Bede house and other vulnerable people.</p>	<p>Council to prioritise clearing and gritting of routes required by vulnerable people (e.g. Bede House to Spar shop).</p> <p>Council to publically clarify their responsibilities and liabilities with regard to pavement clearing.</p> <p>Council should also advise house owners and tenants on their responsibilities and liabilities, if this is applicable.</p> <p>Council is asked to consider means of helping the public help themselves – such as provision of plastic shovels.</p> <p>Council to consider the installation of a handrail on steeper roads, such as the upper section of Spittal / College Bounds.</p>
Environment	<p>Resolve chronic rat-run problem of traffic entering High St from College Bounds.</p>	<p>Council to replace current traffic light 'bus gate at College Bounds / University Row junction with a more effective solution.</p> <p>See suggestion above under community safety.</p>

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	Support the redevelopment of St Machar Outdoor Centre / Sunnybank Park.	Council accepts Sunnybank Steering Group proposals and agrees that Sunnybank Park is retained as a green space for the community.
	Seaton Park needs to be rejuvenated and developed to meet peoples needs.	A partnership for management and support of Seaton Park is put in place and funds are made available for developing additional services (e.g. a barbeque area and other enhanced facilities to meet local requirements)
	The Old Aberdeen Conservation Report (issued in 1993) needs be reviewed and updated to address current needs and pressures	The Old Aberdeen Conservation Report is reviewed and updated with full input from the local communities.
	Concern over the proposed 3 rd Don crossing damaging the environment we live in	That any new proposals for a third Don Crossing address the concerns of the local communities. That the third Don Crossing does not impinge upon Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen area. That more sustainable solutions (public transport, cycling, rail) are developed throughout the area.
Health & Well Being	The City Council seem to be destroying the heritage of public toilets previously developed. This has impact on public behaviour, tourism and hygiene, visible on Union Street every Friday night and to a lesser extent in our locality.	Public toilets are provided for tourists and the general public
	Air pollution at St Machar / King Street roundabout and St Machar Drive is very evident during rush-hour traffic periods.	City Council makes real effort to achieve modal shift towards public transport.
Lifelong Learning	The current intentions of the City Council would appear to be the general removal of library services. While this seems to be a very retrograde step the council has not sought to help the public understand the issues other than the obvious one of reducing expenditure.	City Council makes available to OACC the usage statistics for local libraries? Council to enter dialogue with general public or OACC on the issues relating to library services in this environment of intense computer and internet access. Issues we would like to discuss include: options for retaining access to local library services, such as micro-libraries?, or mobile libraries? Or perhaps the provision of public computer access is the key issue?

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Local Democracy	<p>There is dissatisfaction in how little the City Council involves the Community Council in decision making concerning issues with local interest. Recent examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Neighbourhood Action Plan ○ The Controlled Parking Zone ○ General proposed road alterations are never discussed with OACC. 	<p>the City Council will more actively involve the Community Council in decision making, and sufficiently early and with sufficient openness for such involvement to be able to make difference.</p>
	<p>The Old Aberdeen Conservation Report (issued in 1993) needs be reviewed and updated to address current needs and pressures</p>	<p>The Old Aberdeen Conservation Report is reviewed and updated with full input from the local communities.</p>
	<p>Concern over the proposed 3rd Don crossing being progressed without due consideration to the impact on the local environment</p>	<p>That any new proposals for a third Don Crossing address the concerns of the local communities That the third Don Crossing does not impinge upon Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen area. That more sustainable solutions (public transport, cycling, rail) are developed throughout the area.</p>
Prosperity and Jobs	<p>That tourism is inadequately supported in the Old Aberdeen area</p>	<p>Develop better facilities for tourism, including public toilets, short term parking, encourage appropriate shops and services.</p>
	<p>There is concern that the Old Aberdeen area is losing its diversity of facilities, and mix of housing</p>	<p>The Council should encourage economic diversity in area around university and an increase in long term occupancy is achieved. The University stops and, ideally reverses, their empty building stockpiling strategy. Encourage provision of affordable housing and rental accommodation is needed in the area The OACC will support applications to provide a bistro, restaurant type facility or other community oriented facilities.</p>