

DRAFT Old Aberdeen Action Plan for 2010

Rev C – 28th 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 no.20/29 route and the no.19 route. That the no.20 stops on St Machar Drive should be re-instated to provide access to users of Bede House Court. 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, with a number of further areas of upgrade identified for urgent attention, including external pointing, guttering and entrance hall decoration.	Funds and support are found to continue refurbishment of Dunbar Street Hall.
	The Old Aberdeen area requires facilities to encourage use of the High St into the evening	The OACC will support applications to provide a bistro, restaurant type facility or other community oriented facilities.
	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. Lighting should be to an agreed, and consistent, heritage pattern.
	Improve pavement condition (trip hazards).	Council to identify and reset displaced paving stones. (Important that the old flag stones are retained) Council to identify and publicise an efficient method for the public to advise the Council of such problems.

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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 to ensure 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.</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. 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 this winter (2009-2010), 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 and perhaps should clarify the responsibilities of house owners and tenants, too.</p>
Environment	<p>Support the redevelopment of St Machar Outdoor Centre / Sunnybank Park.</p>	<p>Council should consider positively the proposals being made for the St Machar Outdoor Centre/Sunnybank Park by Sunnybank Steering Group with a view to endorsing these.</p>
	<p>Concern over the proposed 3rd Don crossing damaging the environment we live in</p>	<p>That any new proposals for a third Don Crossing address the concerns of the local communities.</p> <p>That the third Don Crossing does not encroach upon Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen area.</p> <p>That more sustainable solutions (public transport, cycling, rail) are developed throughout the area.</p>

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	Resolve chronic rat-run problem of traffic entering High St from College Bounds.	Council to replace current traffic light 'bus gate at College Bounds / University Row junction with a more effective solution. See suggestion above under community safety.
	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.
	There are few signs to identify Old Aberdeen as an important heritage site.	Addition of sympathetic 'Welcome to Old Aberdeen' type signs are provided, plus discrete tourist information boards.
Health & Well Being	The City Council seem to be destroying the heritage of public toilets developed be earlier generations. 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 access 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. That air pollution at King St / St Machar Drive roundabout is monitored and reported back to ACC and OACC on a regular basis.
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.	Council to enter dialogue with general public and OACC on the issues relating to library services in this environment of intense computer and internet access. Issues we would like to see discussed openly 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? That the OACC is fully consulted on replacement library facilities for Linksfield Library.

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Local Democracy	Concern over the proposed 3 rd Don crossing being progressed without due consideration to the impact on the local environment	That any new proposals for a third Don Crossing address the concerns of the local communities That the third Don Crossing does not encroach upon Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen area. That more sustainable solutions (public transport, cycling, rail) are developed throughout the area.
	There is dissatisfaction in how little the City Council involves the Community Council in decision making concerning issues with local interest.	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.
	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.
Prosperity and Jobs	That tourism is inadequately supported in the Old Aberdeen area	Develop better facilities for tourism, by provide a welcoming Information Point and other information services, encourage appropriate shops and services , provide short term parking and public access toilets.
	There are few signs to identify Old Aberdeen as an important heritage site.	Addition of sympathetic ‘Welcome to Old Aberdeen’ type signs to be provided, plus discrete tourist information boards.
	There is concern that the Old Aberdeen area is losing its diversity of facilities, and mix of housing	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.