

# On track

Summer 2008



## Woodlands In and Around Towns Initiative

As part of the Aberdeen Woodlands In and Around Towns Initiative (WIAT), much work has been taking place in the City's woodlands. This has included the thinning of woods and the construction of new paths at North Loriston Wood, Wellington Road and Burnbanks Woods around the Cove area and Sheddocksley Woods and Greenfern Woods to the west of the City. Paths have also been constructed in Hilton Woods, enabling easier access through the woods and to local bus routes.

Kincorth Hill has been a centre of activity over the spring period. During March, areas of gorse were cleared by machine in order to open up areas of woodland. This is to allow the trees room to grow and hopefully encourage some natural regeneration. Some of the paths were also re-surfaced and a new path linking Nigg Way to Tollohill Square was constructed. The new path follows the route over the grass that people have been using for many years. A new car park has also been created at the western end of Nigg Way.

## Explore Aberdeen

£145,000 worth of funding has been secured from Energising Aberdeen for the Explore Aberdeen project. Based on the implementation of the Core Paths Plan, the money is likely to be spent on improvements to proposed core paths, such as the upgrading of some of the Brimmond and Elrick paths and enhancing important local links to facilities.

Aberdeen Countryside Project, which has been renamed Aberdeen Greenspace from 1st July, is also contributing to the project, and this financial year will be focusing on installing signposting to and along the River Don paths. They will also be carrying out some improvements to the River Dee path in the Camphill area.

## Cycle Routes

Funding for several projects has been secured from Nestrans for developing key strategic paths. These include: £280,000 for the implementation of the Westhill – Aberdeen Cycle Route; and £260,000 for the construction of the next phase of the Riverside Drive Cycle Route along the Dee.



## Becycle

This is an initiative by the University of Aberdeen which involves the restoration of old bikes by a team of volunteers. Once restored, the bikes are loaned to people through a 'bike library'.

Becycle also runs bike repair workshops where people can learn about bike maintenance and get advice from the team. Becycle are dependent on donations of old bikes, tools and spare parts. If you would like to donate items or volunteer to help, please visit the Becycle website at [www.becycle.wordpress.com](http://www.becycle.wordpress.com)



## Deer Park, Woodside

Aberdeen Greenspace, Aberdeen City Council and Auld Woodside Action Group have been working together to create improved access to the park through providing a new path across the park, removing an old fence and native tree and shrub planting.

The park was officially opened, coinciding with the launch of Aberdeen Countryside Project's new name Aberdeen Greenspace on 2nd July.



## Walk to Health

With the summer months, a number of health walks are planned to encourage people to walk their way to health. In Torry, sheltered housing residents will be taking part in short led walks from June. Physiotherapy patients will also be encouraged to attend a new programme of health walks taking place in local parks and green spaces.

This was launched in July and provides the perfect opportunity for participants to get fitter while enjoying the outdoors. Contact : Freda Nicolson NHS Grampian email [fredanicolson@nhs.net](mailto:fredanicolson@nhs.net), Tel 01224 558421

## Bucksburn to Kingswells

Following a feasibility study to identify the most appropriate line of the route, consultation is due to be held on two route options identified. This is due to start in August 2008 and will involve a leaflet drop to local homes, information panels at local community centres and questionnaires being made available.

If you are interested in this consultation please phone 01224 523316 or email : [paths@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:paths@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## Dyce Central Park

A new path has been constructed through Dyce Central Park. The tarmac path will allow pupils to cycle to school and replaces the well used dirt track which often became muddy in winter.

The project was identified by Dyce Neighbourhood Network and forms part of a larger project to improve the accessibility and appearance of Dyce Central Park through the provision of a multi games area, a youth shelter, planting native trees and around 150 metres of hedge planting.

The path work was funded jointly by Aberdeen Greenspace and Aberdeen City Council's Energising Aberdeen fund.





## Deeside Way

Following over 600 entries being submitted to the competition for Deeside school children to design a logo for the Deeside Way, two winners were chosen for the final design and strapline.

The design will be used on signs and panels along the path as well as in promotional materials.



## Walk to School Initiative

Sixteen schools in Aberdeen have participated in the Walk to School Initiative since it started in 2005. The Initiative is both individual and class-based, and has involved providing wall charts to record the days walked to school and awarding badges on reaching set goals.

The majority of schools involved have seen significant changes in travel behaviour, in the region of a 19% increase in the number of children walking, and a 17% reduction in the number travelling to school by car.

The project is being extended to include more schools, with pupils and teachers helping to identify key routes and promoting them through the use of colourful markings developed with the school. The project is being funded by Aberdeen City Council's Energising Aberdeen fund.

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email : [dhaggarty@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:dhaggarty@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

## Dyce Paths

Funding has been sought from Sustrans, in partnership with Nestrans for improving a link between Dyce Railway Station and Kirkhill Industrial Estate. This is already well used by commuters but the improved path should make this a safer, more attractive option for more people.

There are also plans to install a path linking Victoria Street, Dyce with the Formartine and Buchan Way. This path is also already well used by rail commuters but the replacement of the current rough muddy track with a better quality surface will improve the link greatly.

The project has so far involved upgrading the existing section of the path, which follows the Old Deeside Railway Line in Aberdeen and completing new sections to create a continuous path between Aberdeen and Ballater.

Of the new sections of path, Aberdeen to Banchory and Dinnet to Ballater are open; Aboyne to Dinnet is due to open shortly. The whole path is expected to be completed by 2011. The logo project forms part of a Marketing and Promotion Plan developed in partnership with Aberdeen City and Shire Councils, Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Sustrans and Cairngorms National Park Authority.

The project aims to make the most of the route as a regional facility, valued by residents and visitors for travel and recreation.

Sustrans and Nestrans are to be funding a new bridge over West Cults Road. This will mean that users of the Deeside Way will no longer have to negotiate the steep slope down, cross the road then climb the steep slope up again to enjoy the route. The bridge is to be funded in partnership between Nestrans and Sustrans, with both organisations recognising the regional importance of the path.

## New Cycle Map

A 2008 version of the Aberdeen Cycle Map is now available. Copies can be obtained at libraries across the city, At the Point and at main council offices.



## Health and Transport Action Plan

A Health and Transport Action Plan has been developed in partnership between NHS Grampian, Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council. It sets out a range of actions to promote healthier travel, minimise the impact of transport on our health and improve access to healthcare facilities.

It is widely recognised that there is a strong relationship between transport and health. Active travel, public health, and access to healthcare are addressed in the Plan and all of the partners involved with the Plan have agreed on actions to deliver it.

## Green Transport Week/ Bike Week

Green Transport Week and Bike Week ran from 14th - 22nd June, and sought to highlight the many positive impacts that sustainable travel can have, ranging from health benefits associated with a more active lifestyle, to environmental improvements such as cleaner air as a result of reduced emissions from transport. Aberdeen Cycle Forum gave away cycle vouchers, bike bags, bicycle bells, helmets and leaflets with the new Aberdeen Cycle map.

Similar events are likely to be running in September, so check out the Aberdeen Cycle Forum website for more information:  
[www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk](http://www.aberdeencycleforum.org.uk)



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