

Aberdeen Local Development Plan Pre-MIR Consultation Events

Bridge of Don Academy
29 April 2013 19:00 - 21:00
15 participants

Workshop 1 – Local Area

What does your 'local area' make you think of? What does it feel / look like?

Bridge of Don is from Don Bridge to Scotstown, down Parkway to Tesco / Grandhome Bridge.

What do you like about your local area? What makes it a good place to live, work or visit?

Low crime, quiet residential character, good amenity, no disruption at night. No conflicting uses in the residential areas.
Good schools.

Plenty of green space - Unimpaired access to the other parts of the area and the surrounding countryside- lots of nice walks and core paths. However, it is important the Perwinnes Moss stays protected and woodland should be retained. The open space could be improved and the area could have more green space.
Nice to be in the built up area but have the countryside nearby.

Adequate shopping.

Medical Centre.

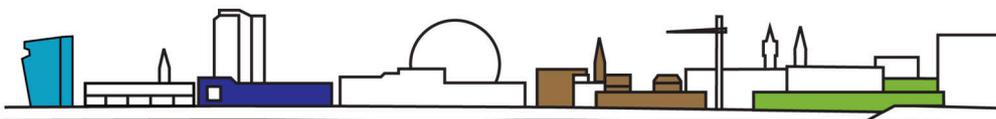
What's not so good about living, working or visiting here? What problems are there?

Traffic congestion – Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and Third Don Crossing will alleviate this though.

Inadequate evening bus service – expensive buses.

Lack of links to the rest of the city.

Suburbia – there is no town centre and limited facilities. Need more local shops and convenience shopping dispersed around Bridge of Don, however it is recognised local shops find it hard to compete with large supermarkets.
Limited bungalows for old people.



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Are there any opportunities for improvements?

Third Don Crossing.

Restrict new housing development.

Increase and improve bus services.

Ideally the railway from Peterhead through Ellon to Aberdeen (with a stop in Bridge of Don) would be reinstated; would take a significant amount of commuter traffic off the roads. Dyce station is also on the 'wrong side' of the airport for accessing the terminal and industrial areas. However, it is recognised that this is not a Local Authority decision.

Suggest widening of Jesmond Drive to accommodate traffic turning left into ASDA.

Once Middleton Park Primary School is closed the fields should remain as open space and there should be consideration of using the building for community use.

Once the recycling centre has moved the area should be returned to nature and in keeping with the surrounding area. There is an issue with the core path network around the recycling centre, where it is disjointed but could become a nice circuit if this was rectified.

Need Gypsy / Traveller sites to help stop illegal pitching – appreciate that sites are being planned for.

We need to carefully plan infrastructure before housing and business is built.

Need new and larger facilities for recycling.

What do you think is important when considering new development?

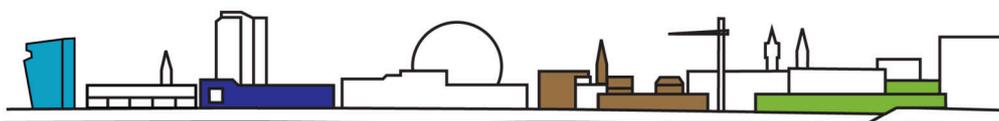
Road traffic congestion and the impact this will have on local residents.

Improved roads infrastructure needs to be built before the homes.

Committed road improvements should be shown on the Proposals Map so people know what is going ahead and where.

Effects on green space.

Effect on schools - concerned about education provision for new development, it needs to be clear when it will be provided.



Effect on medical centres and recreational facilities – need new facilities (NHS especially).

New communities such as the Grandhome development should be built next to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and not in the middle of the city where there is already problems with traffic congestion. Development is taking place in the wrong locations.

Closing Middleton Park Primary and zoning children from Grandholm to Danestone is dangerous – pupils will need to cross the busy Parkway.

How can local communities be involved in new development areas?

Be consulted with before the council sell the land and agreed development.

Events like tonight are useful.

Posters in GPs / Dentists.

Posters in schools.

Other points

Gypsy / Travellers

Concerned about the threat of a Gypsy / Traveller site on the Scotstown Recycling Centre. Feel the process has been underhand and the site is too small. A larger site needs to be provided and there needs to be openness and transparency in the process of identifying sites.

We need suitable accommodation for Gypsies / Travellers. There is a community group set up to look for suitable sites.

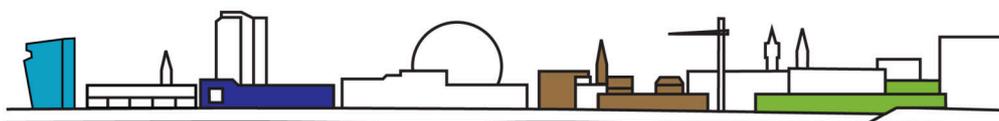
Scotstown is not suitable, there are no safe paths or street lights and this would not be a safe environment.

Is there a site that is not on the doorstep of the local community? Gypsy / Travellers sites should not be next to the settled community.

Provide a bigger Gypsy / Traveller site at Grandhome, even if you have to allocate more land to achieve it.

Will Gypsy / Travellers use the sites?

Gypsy / Traveller Groups are getting larger and larger- it is no longer appropriate to be looking for sites to accommodate 6 pitches- we need to be looking ahead to future needs. A possible solution would be to place the site near the Aberdeen



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Western Peripheral Route with a 'buffer zone' around it.

It is fairer for Gypsy / Travellers to have a choice on where to live.

Possible site for Gypsy Traveller sites: AECC; old petrol station on Ellon Road or with the proposed business development to the north of AECC.

Transport and Accessibility

Cars are our livelihoods.

Grandhome

The development of 7,000 homes at Grandhome could generate 10,000 cars which will cause significant traffic congestion and negate the effect of a Third Don Crossing.

If there are no plans to expand the Parkway to be a dual carriageway, how will cars enter and exit the development? Not happy with the proposed access into Grandholm from the Parkway – the community will object to this.

The Grandhome development should be linked directly to the AWPR. The Haudagain Roundabout and road to Dyce is already severely congested and is set to get worse with the development on new homes at Bridge of Don area. Whitestripes Road will also need to be improved.

The Grandhome development is almost doubling the size of Bridge of Don- will there be any facilities? It was discussed that there will be a new health centre, a secondary school and three primary schools.

There will be a new 'town centre' built as part of the Grandhome development in the south-east corner of the development. Will this contain anything by way of facilities or entertainment for local people to use, e.g sports pitches, health clubs or a cinema? There is a desire for the new 'town centre'; to have a distinct character and a local, personal scale like areas such as Rosemount.

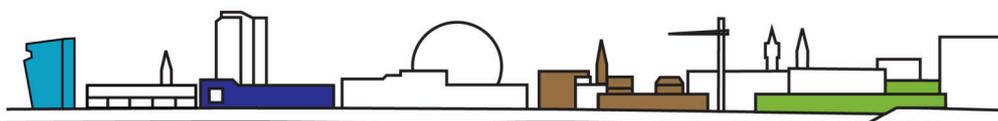
Davidson's Mill

Development at Davidson's Mill at Muggiemoss will generate extra traffic. There should be a relief road which exits from the north of this development to ease a traffic bottleneck in the south east corner.

Muggiemoss Road closure for 6 months is a huge concern.

Energetica

The Third Don Crossing needs to take account of this. Only concern with Energetica



is the increase of traffic in the area. An incinerator could be developed within the Energetic corridor.

Workshop 2 – City Centre

What do you like about the city centre? What are its strengths?

Shopping malls – Bon Accord, St Nicholas, Union Square

Union Terrace Gardens is a strength of the City Centre.

What's not so good about the City Centre? What problems are there?

Union Street – full of bookmakers, phone shops and discount stores. It gives a very poor image.

Union Terrace Gardens is a waste of space.

The traffic arrangements around the Union Square area are completely inappropriate. Union Square car park is very difficult to get into and out of; the amount of traffic lights around Union Street and Guild Street.

The Green area is very out of the way- there is no reason to go there at present.

The City Centre is too busy and difficult to get to with a lack of car parking.

How do you think we should build on these strengths / address the problems?

Lower rates on Union Street to encourage retailers back.

Develop Union Terrace Gardens.

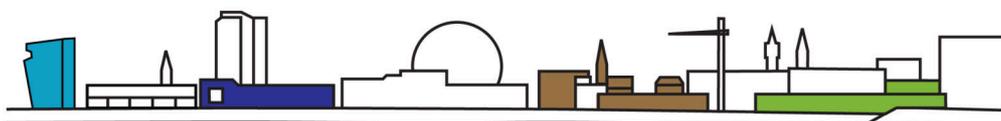
Pedestrianising Union Street will not encourage the return of retailers – shoppers want to be indoors.

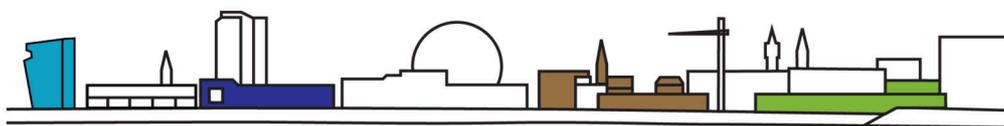
The use of Union Street should be for shops, entertainment and coffee shops etc. It needs to be a pleasant environment where people meet together, can sit outside and wander about.

More (cheap) car parking in this City Centre and free evening parking. The evening parking would support social uses in the City Centre.

More Busses, which need to be on time, clean and cheap.

Tidy up the City Centre, clean up valuable buildings and provide more open space.





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