

Aberdeen Local Development Plan Pre-MIR Consultation Events

Bucksburn Academy
17 April 19:00 – 21:00
13 participants

Workshop 1 – Local Area

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

Lots of green spaces.

Minutes to the countryside but also close to the city centre.

Good variety of both shorter and longer walks around the local area.

River Don a good feature of this local area.

Access to nature and open spaces relatively easy.

Good access for all abilities.

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

Lots of development pressure and concern over Green Belt boundaries.

Number of football pitches have been lost in the local area recently – they need to be replaced.

Noise from the airport is an issue, this has become worse over recent years.

Traffic at the Haudagain a big issues.

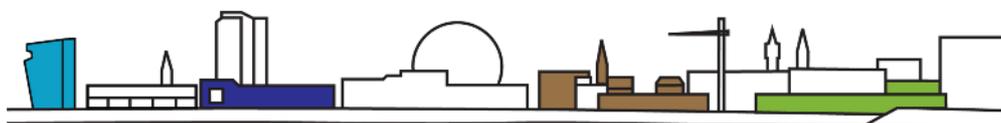
Speeding on Kepplehills Road an issue.

Are there any opportunities for improvements?

Better sport pitch provision should be considered in new developments.

There should be nothing developed at the Bankhead Academy site (especially not a primary school), but rather this site should be used as playing fields.

Safe routes to school must be considered for all new developments, e.g. Stonewood



aberdeen local development plan

link to Core Path 4.

Restrict traffic on Forrit Brae – currently used as a rat run. If taking a left at Hopetoun Grange not safe.

Use of truncated C roads due to Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route could be used as cycle / pedestrian paths.

Hopetoun Grange a rat run – speed bumps and / or flashing speed monitors should be introduced – Sc lattie Brae speed bumps have worked well. Important to do this soon given closure of Newhills School.

Dyce Railway Station would be seen as a positive. Some people drive to Dyce and get train in to town rather than sit in traffic.

Open a railway station in Bucksburn to take traffic off the roads.

The road between Kingswells and Bucksburn needs to be upgraded.

What do you think is important when considering new development?

Loss of important trees an issue (Stoneywood has been a bad example of this). New planting proposals important in new developments – enough to make an impact.

Traffic impact important in considering new development - There is a huge amount of development proposed for the north of the City and the group have grave concerns that the transport network will not be able to cope. Transport improvements should take place before the housing. The developments on Dyce Drive will cause major road congestion problems. The traffic in the area will detract from the marketability of the new development.

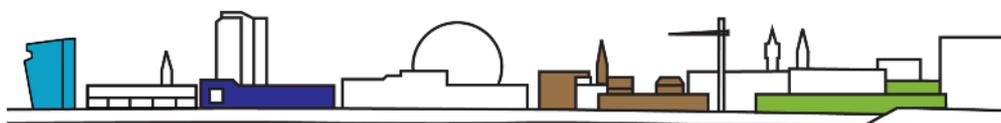
Important for new developments to consider the main natural corridors such as the River Don corridor and Core Paths and how they can link in to these.

New schools should not be developed within the flight path of the airport.

New development should have medical facilities, especially the provision of a dentist in the new development.

There needs to be a supermarket in the area.

Housing in the new development around Bucksburn should be no higher than two storeys. There should be a mix of housing. There should not be flats, but would like



to see maisonette type housing instead. Unlikely to be economical for a developer but older people would like to have the opportunity to move to bungalows. The Scotia Homes small houses in Aberdeenshire are a product that is attractive to older people.

How can local communities be involved in new development areas?

Communities should be able to trust that the surveys carried out as part of planning applications, such as trees surveys, are done so truthfully and accurately.

Involve the community council in the masterplanning process.

When advertising consultation events advertisement needs to be improved, put posters up in local shops that people use.

Other points:

Don't mind progress if done correctly.

Presently local people will drive to Inverurie or Westhill rather than go into town for anything as parking is easier and there is everything that they need. There is no incentive to go into the city centre.

Workshop 2 – City Centre

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

Granite very important – granite buildings should not be demolished.

Open space in the city centre is very important, e.g. Neither Kirk and rooftop of St Nicholas Centre.

Belmont Street is a nice place to visit, especially when the farmers market is on.

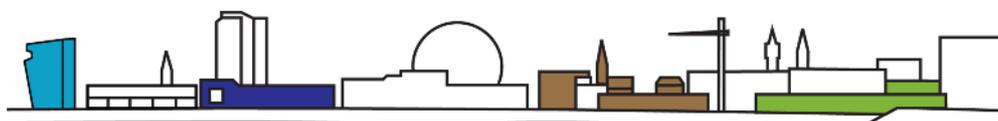
What's not so good about the City Centre? What problems are there?

City centre and Union Street a dump. Used to be really proud of Union Street – not proud anymore. Union Square has killed off Union Street.

Empty shop units a big problem.

The granite buildings tend to be dirty.

At present, retailers have a strong incentive to locate outwith the City Centre.



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

Grubby buildings should be cleaned up.

Should be encouraging people back onto Union Street and public realm areas rather than inside the shopping centres. Some use on upper storeys on Union Street would be good – doesn't matter if it's residential, office or hotel. Signage and advertisements on Union Street should be better controlled. Lower shop rents on Union Street may encourage retailers to locate there. The west end of Union Street could be used for executive flats. The days of Union Street being the main shopping street have gone.

Markets should be at the Castlegate rather than on Union Terrace.

St Nicholas House an opportunity for Civic Square – cafes, bistros etc.

Bigger play on art gallery and central library as cultural quarter and links to and from this area.

Woolmanhill – sheltered housing or museum potential options. Important to keep the historical building intact.

Posters should be encouraged in empty shop units.

Union Terrace Gardens should be enhanced, possible introduce a regular market and coffee shop.

There need to be better connections from Union Street to the bus station.

Marischal College has been a success and should be built upon, any development of Greyfriars Church should be of a high standard, and need to remove St Nicolas House.

There is an opportunity to improve Golden Square.

Opportunity to do something with Provost Skene House.

We should try to reduce the bus fares.

