

Friends of Old Cove

The Friends of Old Cove (FOOC) action group have been meeting regularly and making good progress with realising their objectives.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in the hospitable surrounds of the Cove Bay Hotel lounge on the third Thursday of each month. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the action group will be made very welcome.

This short report should provide an encouraging update about our progress.

Confirmation!

Chronicle readers will recall that FOOC was established to resist the recommendation by Aberdeen City Council Planning Committee to de - designate Old Cove from having the conservation status which it had been granted in 1975.

Following much discussion and representation, which included a presentation to the Planning Committee during their site visit to Old Cove, **the group received a letter from Marie Boulton, Deputy Leader of the Council, saying ‘ that a decision was taken by the Planning Committee not to revoke the conservation status but to assist ‘ Friends Of Old Cove ‘ to maintain conservation area status.’**

You can imagine the joy that this confirmation created amongst the group but what the implications of the decision might mean in practice we will have to wait and see.



Communications!

I am delighted that the action group have initiated a new FOOC website and we are profoundly grateful to local resident Rob Bryce for his very sensitive and effective design.

The website can now be visited at www.old-cove.com

but please remember these are still early days and although the website is up and functioning there is much to do before it will be completed. However, you can use the site for emails and your ideas, suggestions and views will be much appreciated.

Considerations!

The Friends group is diverse and lively and there have been no shortage of suggestions and ideas about maintaining and enhancing the Old Village, considered at its meetings. All suggestions have been

warmly welcomed but not all have been realistic and achievable!

To date, we have applied for charitable status to the Office of the Charity Regulator Scotland, opened a Bank account, entered the It's your Neighbourhood Awards and explored the possibility of grant applications from local award giving companies and organisations.

Currently the group are considering the creation of a sensory garden on the Old Cove green, building a raised flower bed at the top of Spark Terrace and providing 100 hanging flower baskets to residents in a partnership with Cove in Bloom.

We are conscious that there are many other pressing concerns that residents have raised with us, eg, the state of

the roads and paths, street signage and street lighting as well as formal planning matters and all of these are being considered and will be addressed in due course.

Meantime, we are grateful for the goodwill and support of everyone and will keep you informed about developments either via the Chronicle or the new website and we trust that our humble efforts will help to maintain and improve the special and unique qualities of our beautiful Village.

Hector I Mackenzie

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