

FRIENDS OF OLD COVE (FOOC)

The work of the Friends of Old Cove continues through the year with both periods of encouragement and discouragement. The loyalty of the action group is impressive and others would be welcome to join with us during our monthly meetings. Our meetings are held in the Cove Bay Hotel at 7 30 pm on the first Monday of each month.

We have always assumed that the reason Old Cove was originally granted Conservation Status in 1975 was due to the seven unique terraces which are the core of the old village and also the harbour area. We have attempted to address issues of neglect and decay within the village, with a special focus upon the terraces but with modest success to date.

Following a living Streets audit we have seen improvements in both the street lighting and the streets signage but we are still working for improvements on the roads, pathways and drains. We are also indebted to Cove in Bloom for their flower trough initiatives and to the residents who have also sought to enhance the area with floral contributions which creates a much improved, pleasant and colourful environment for us all to enjoy.

Recently, we agreed a couple of things;

1. That attempting to improve the whole village, all at once, was unrealistic and unachievable, so we decided to focus upon one of the terraces and attempt to use that as a model of what could be achieved. We decided to focus upon

Craighill Terrace and a couple of our members visited each home to explore the possibilities and were met with everyone's support and commitment.

We also discovered that during 2005/ 6 there had already been plans to upgrade the pathways and construct a road in Craighill Terrace. For reasons I don't understand yet, the work had been sub - contracted to Moray Council for completion but seemed to fall through at the last minute.

On behalf of the residents I will be writing the heads of Planning and Roads in ACC requesting that they resurrect and implement the original plan with immediate effect.

2. We recognise that all the residents of the old village and many others are Friends of Old Cove anyway but that only a small number have participated in the action group. We felt that we needed to have a few more locals to join with us and strengthen our efforts and following a letter to encourage them to do so I'm delighted that our numbers have increased lately. I'm very grateful about this and look forward to working with them in the future.

The Friends of Old Cove action group wish all Chronicle readers a happy and safe summer with the promise that we will keep you updated about our efforts in the days ahead.

Hector I Mackenzie

**Contact Friends of Old Cove at
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