

Friends of Old Cove

The Friends of the old village continue to meet regularly on the first Monday of each month in the welcoming premises of the Cove Bay Hotel. The meetings tend to be informal, friendly and focussed. Residents of the old village and any other interested parties will be very warmly welcomed if they join us for these occasions.

We assume everyone who chooses to live in the area is already a friend of the village so we refer to ourselves as the 'action group.' Recently, we have been very active and continue to be so as we complete the Living Streets Audit. I must pay tribute to Anne - Marie Steehouder of the City Council for her helpfulness and guidance with this Audit.



The Audit has already revealed four interesting aspects about life in Old Cove; Folk really treasure having their homes in the village and appreciate its unique qualities. The welcoming heart of the

residents is exceptional. The issues we explored together were generally the ones that the residents were already concerned about so there is a consensus and pleasing unity about the issues and there is significant support for upgrading and enhancing the village according to the conservation criteria. Of course this is where our problems begin. The burning question or questions are, which issue or issues do we pursue, how or where do we pursue them and what can we learn from other similar conservation groups within the city??

One lesson we have already learned is that despite having a vision to work towards, we are aware that progress is slow and deliberate but we will seek to persevere until the promised change happens.

We continue to appreciate the support that Cove in Bloom give to us and it was very pleasant to see the verges covered with daffodils on Balmoral Brae, the road that leads from Stoneyhill Terrace down to Balmoral Terrace, during the Spring.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has recently announced a grant of £10,000.00 for the enhancement of local areas to be distributed via its Conservation Regeneration Scheme (CARS). If anyone would like to apply for a contribution on behalf of FOOC please speak to one of the 'action group' asap as applications need to be submitted by 31 August 2016.

Please enjoy the summer and especially the Cove Gala, once again if anyone feels they would like to represent FOOC at the Gala I can provide them with a gazebo. Thank you for all your support!

Hector I. Mackenzie.