

Torry's **Vision**

Spring 2021

Image - Natalie Hood



In this issue:

TORRY ACADEMY
DEMOLITION,
BIG NOISE TORRY,
TORRY ECOMUSEUM
PROJECT

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Torry's Vision

Spring Edition 2021

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editorial

Read on to find out more about historical features in Torry, Big Noise Torry, Dolphin Watch, new projects which will be launching in the area for young people and an update from Tenant's Participation.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at SHMU are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Torry.

If you live in Torry and would like to come along to the editorial meetings (which are online at the moment) or submit an article then get in touch with Laura at SHMU on **0752586312** or you can email her on **laura.young@shmu.org.uk**.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website **www.shmu.org.uk** then click the 'PRESS' option.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

Torry's Vision is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

happy reading.



Supported by



Lochside Academy

Pupils at Lochside Academy have written pieces about their experiences of lockdown learning. Thank you Chloe and Asia for sending these in.

My Life in Lockdown - Chloe

One day in March 2020 the whole world changed because of the coronavirus. All the shops, towns and local places all shut down. Everyone was buying toilet rolls and food for lockdown, all the aisles in the supermarkets were demolished.

The best thing that has happened to me is I got to do some bonding with my sister and the worst

thing about lockdown is spending Christmas and my birthday in lockdown.

In lockdown two I've gotten to know my friends better through school but I find my teachers very scary! School has been fun at times like making our snowmen, messy Mondays, baking and learning new things.

.....

The Powerful Pandemic - Asia

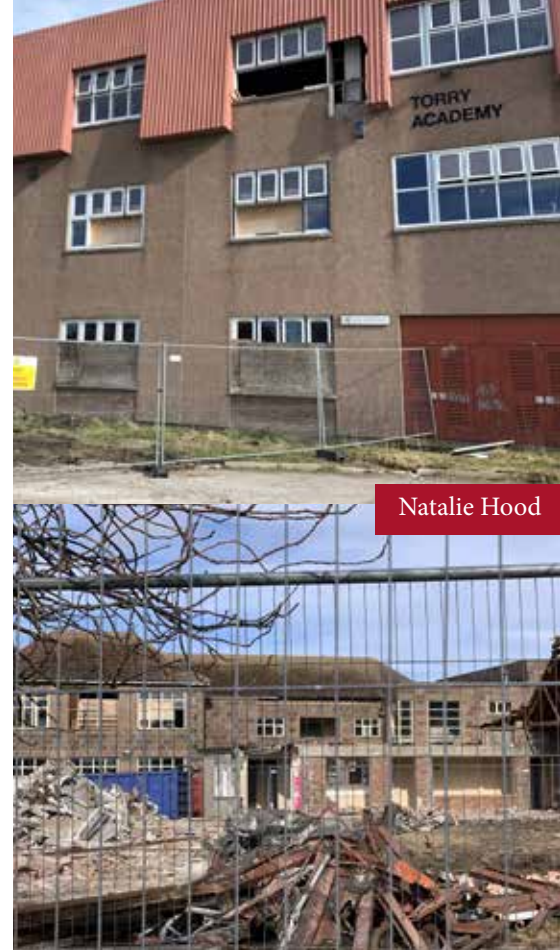
The lockdown began in March 2020 when there was a pandemic of the virus known as Covid-19 which spread worldwide. The pandemic changed everyone's lives. People were losing their jobs, pubs, restaurants, shops and shopping centres and schools were closed.

Everyone's lives changed, we weren't allowed to see friends and family and live our day-to-day lives. The streets were quiet and it didn't feel normal. It went from getting to go shopping, spending time with family to online school, seeing our friends virtually, wearing face masks, washing our hands after everything we touch, using

hand sanitizer. Our lives just didn't feel 'normal'.

Everyone's mental health got the better of them. It was caused by feeling lonely, not seeing friends and family, not having the same routine, people's sleeping patterns were messed up and most teenagers were turning night into day and day into night.

A positive of lockdown for me was I got to come into school and work online in school. It felt like a bit of normality in my life. In school we do lots of activities like messy Mondays, stop the bus, baking and getting to know each other better.



Natalie Hood

Torry Academy Demolition

Plans were agreed back in 2018 to demolish the school and build a new Primary School and Community Hub on the site. After work started to prepare the site for demolition, asbestos was discovered in the building, which required a specialist team to remove it. This caused delays to the project timescales, and along with the pandemic, further delays have been incurred. Throughout 2020 Councillor Audrey Nicoll regularly asked for updates on the project. The latest update was provided on Thursday 28 January which was that the demolition work should be starting in February into March, and completed by May. All going well, the site can be prepared and building can commence. It is crucial that the school is built as soon as possible to allow children to return to a first-class learning environment and catch up on the learning that has been so disrupted during the pandemic.

Big Noise Torry

In March last year, Covid-19 flipped everyone's worlds upside down - Big Noise Torry was no exception.

But thanks to technology, a hard-working team, our fantastic children, families and partner schools, we were able to keep making a 'Big Noise' by moving the majority of our programme online and outdoors.

Firstly, we worked hard to deliver instruments and supply appropriate technology for those who didn't have the resources to join us online from home.

Lots of work went on behind the scenes to timetable Zoom one-to-one sessions for our children, as well as group sessions for the orchestra groups. We have taught over 2700 online lessons since March 2020! We moved Little Noise online (for guardians and babies, Mondays at 10.15am), as well as The Noise (our adult orchestra who meet on Thursdays at 5pm). We also taught

in the Hubs of both primary schools, and organised garden visits/outdoor lessons around the community too. Many online videos were also created for the childrens' personal practise and development at home. Spreading the joy of music remained a priority but reaching out to the community in an attempt to combat isolation was a key motivator for us as well.

Returning to school in Autumn 2020, we were able to bring 'in school' Big Noise sessions to every year group in both Walker Road and Tullos primary - this was the first time in our 5 years in Torry that we had been able to offer Big Noise to every child! As our first group of young people transitioned to high-school, we began delivering BN at Lochside Academy for the first time too. We were able to

bring back a 'Covid-safe' version of our After-School Club for the younger children. It was wonderful to be face to face again! As great as technology is, it can't replicate the magic of playing music together in person.

Our young people and their families have been truly amazing adjusting to all the changes like champions!

We have welcomed a wonderful new team leader, Lorna, as well as our first percussion teacher, Calum, meaning we can now also offer percussion lessons within Big Noise Torry.

In other news, we have recently recorded a song for the Aberdeen Jazz Festival and are currently working on a project with the Art Gallery as well as the Dolphinfest 2021.





Police Scotland Funding

Torry Pump Track Project Proposal

The Torry Youth Action Group (TYAG) are pressing ahead with an exciting community development project, which aims to see the construction of a world class bike pump track built next to the current skatepark at St Fittick's Park. The construction of a pump track would be an excellent and much needed facility, for not only the community of Torry, but also for Aberdeen and further afield.

There are no pump tracks currently in Aberdeen and together with the existing skatepark and the highly successful Cruyff Court pitches, would help in the regeneration of Torry into a mini sporting hub. The pump track would be free for all to use and would be accessible 24/7, with floodlighting for the winter months.

From a policing perspective, there is strong evidence from other towns and cities, that such pump tracks have greatly reduced youth anti-social behaviour and can also bring global media attention and coverage to the area.

In addition to pump tracks being proven to reduce anti-social behaviour, they also have become extremely popular globally with young (and older) people and

families and are a great way for children and young people to get involved in a cycling discipline and develop a sporting interest and skills.

Sportscotland's modelling work has already identified a 'gap in provision' with a lack of cycling facilities, including pump tracks, in the North East (Aberdeen), so we believe (and hope) our funding application will have a good chance of being successful.

This available funding is a great opportunity to help turn our pump track vision into a reality and we are currently in the process of finalising plans, prior to submitting our 'Expression of Interest' to Sportscotland. They will assess our plans and [hopefully] thereafter encourage us to submit our official funding application.

I would encourage Torry residents to provide their thoughts on our plans for a community pump track and any questions and/or comments can be emailed to Jade Leyden at JLeyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Dougie Mackay
Sergeant
Torry Police Station

The Torry Youth Action Group (TYAG) are delighted to announce that we have recently awarded over £5k of Police Scotland funding to new and exciting projects in Torry, that will benefit young people aged 10-20. A total of four applications were received, and after consideration by an independent TYAG funding review panel, two applications were successful. Both successful applicants were deemed to have excellent projects, benefiting greatly, the young people of Torry and also help reduce youth anti-social behaviour.

The first successful applicant was 'The Ultimate Torry Outdoor Adventure' (TUTOA), which is a scout-type charity under the name 'Harcerstwo'. TUTOA will run weekly training nights, outdoor adventures, camping and other trips. Giving the children and young people of Torry the opportunity to go on adventures and learn outdoor skills for free. With outdoor equipment and travel costs provided, to ensure all children can participate, have fun, learn new skills and make new friends.

The second successful applicant was 'Streetsport Project 51', which is run by the Denis Law Legacy Trust, RGU. Project 51 is the creation of female-focussed activities held at the Cruyff Court Neale Cooper pitches. Project 51's aim is to encourage more girls to take part in physical activities. Active Schools research revealed that one of the biggest reasons for low female participation, was girls' feeling self-conscious when participating in sports/activities with boys. This venture will provide the girls of Torry a great opportunity to keep fit, make new friends and have fun in a safe and nurturing environment.

Dougie Mackay
Sergeant
Torry Police Station



Torry's Listed Monuments

Pat Robertson

Edward V111 Pillar Box -- Girdleness Road

When a new King or Queen succeeds to the throne any new pillar box or letter box made and sited during their reign carries the cipher of that Monarch.

This 1936 B listed pillar box is one of the very few post boxes cast in the short reign of Edward V111 bearing his cipher EV111R in raised gothic lettering with the crown above and the words 'post office' below.

Edward V111 reigned from 20th January 1936 until 11th December 1936 when he abdicated so that he could marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee.

A total of 271 letter boxes were cast in 1936 of which 161 were pillar boxes. Of these still surviving the only other pillar box of his reign in Aberdeen is on Desswood Place.



A Vision of Bluebells

Nigel Lammas

Torry will soon become recognised as the sister Blue Toun, when the thousands of bluebell flowers bloom in the coming imminent season.

An intrepid and caring team of wildlife enthusiasts have planted bluebell bulbs in a corner of the Abbey Place Play Park. The bulbs were generously donated by a private garden in Peterhead to the Torry community last week for transplant by a volunteer gardening force.

The aesthetic and environmental benefits of this kind of natural regeneration are incalculably high, with especial emphasis on their advantages for bees and pollination of other flora.

We hope for a carpet of blue very soon, and the continued regeneration of our precious Torry "village."

Capstan Jetty – Greyhope Road

This C listed monument was erected circa 1796 near the mouth of Aberdeen Harbour and the River Dee across from Footdee.

The jetty was constructed for the purpose of erecting a capstan to tract in ships when winds were unfavourable.

The jetty predates many large 19th and 20th century port developments and contributes historic interest to its industrial setting.

Aberdeen Harbour is one of Britain's oldest industries.



ST FITTICK'S PARK

Richard Caie

What links an ancient church, an ancient well and award-winning wetlands? The answer of course is St Fittick's Park.

Nestling between Balnagask, the new harbour at Nigg Bay and Balnagask golf course, St Fittick's Park is an ancient green space in Torry. Before the last Ice Age the River Dee would have flowed into the sea through here. Occasionally, Mesolithic flint tools are found by archaeologists and show the first signs of human presence here (about 7000 years ago).

The ruins of the former parish church of St Fittick's watch over the area. It was established in the 1190's, reconstructed in the 1700's but abandoned in 1829. St Fittick's Well was at the south end of Nigg Bay and was renowned for its

curative powers. The Protestant Church did not like that at all. In the late 1800s the sea claimed it through erosion.

In the early 1900s an electric tram route was established from Guild Street to Torry and was popular for those who enjoyed the seaside at Nigg Bay as well as servicing the Fisheries Research Hatchery there. My father in the 1920s, being a Torry loon, enjoyed the Boy's Brigade camp at Hazlehead. All the way by tram! So exciting. We're so blasé about travel nowadays.

Some six or seven years ago the East Tullos burn was given a revamp. It was in a poor and polluted state but was given the treatment and is now an important part of the wetlands of Aberdeen. Now not only is it a valuable

carbon-sink but is also a home to many varied species of flora and fauna, including migratory birds. A small forest was planted at the same time along with excellent pathways being made. No wonder the transformation has won awards. If you haven't walked there recently then put that at the top of your to do list.

But now the park is under threat. There's a proposal to construct a massive industrial park (Energy Transition Zone). This would remove the last remaining green space in Torry. A group of locals have banded together to oppose such development. More details on Facebook Hands Off Our Green Spaces in Torry or visit the website on saintfittickstorry.com.

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Torry's Concrete Ships

Alan Johnstone

The Aberdeen Concrete Shipping Co. Ltd. was established in 1918, owned by James Scott & Son and operating from South Esplanade East. The company was formed as a response to the shortage of steel during World War 1 – the Admiralty needed more ships and concrete hulls were better than none at all. These designs used about a third of the steel required for conventional ships. Aberdeen was one of 25 UK shipyards commissioned to build 220 ships, but only around 65 were made with the other orders cancelled after the Armistice was signed.

From the Torry yard a barge (Cretetree) and a tug (Cretehatch) were completed in 1919, with a second barge (Cretetorrent) completed in 1920. Three other orders were cancelled. The Cretetree (photographed) is currently beached in the harbour of the Isle of Scalpay, near Tarbert, used for storage by local fishermen.

The Aberdeen Daily Journal reported on the initial launch of the Cretetree on 21st December 1918 :

“The first launch of a concrete vessel at Aberdeen took place on Saturday. The barge is 180 ft long,

with a beam of 31.5 ft, a depth of 19ft and a carrying capacity of 1,000 tons. It is constructed for cross-Channel and coastal traffic and will carry a crew of six. The work of construction has given employment to between 200 and 300 men. Another barge of the same type is well under way and the firm has also received contracts to build four reinforced concrete tugs for the Admiralty.

“A large company had been invited to witness the launching ceremony, the naming being done by Lady Taggart, who was accompanied by Lord Provost Sir James Taggart. As the vessel left the ways she was named “Cretetree”. The derivation from concrete and tree, of which the vessel is constructed, is obvious. The Cretetree took the water in graceful style, amid the hearty cheers of the spectators, thousands of whom lined the Victoria Bridge and the whole extent of Point Law on the opposite side of the Dee. The barge was afterwards taken in tow by a tugboat. Cake and wine were served to the invited guests - Mr James Scott junior in the chair.

“Lord Provost Taggart proposed “Success to the Cretetree” in happy

terms. He said he had expected to find a little boat that went up and down canals and that it would be an impossibility to float it, but she floated like a duck and it was a great pleasure to see the vessel taking the water in such a graceful manner. They had expected the barge to do a great deal in connection with the war, but they wanted barges for much more industrial and pleasant duties such as food, because they were about tired of a ration of half a roast a week and a chicken once a fortnight. The first trip ought to be to Norway for a cargo of granite for Aberdeen, because they could not get tonnage to take over stones to keep the men going.

“They in Aberdeen were most grateful to the Concrete Shipbuilding Company for starting a new industry. They had been losing a lot of industries, and speaking about getting new ones, and this was one of the most important when they were employing about 300 hands. It was a jolly good start and they would give Mr Scott all the hands they possibly could.”



Torry Ecomuseum Project

Virtual arts project invites community participations to visualise stories of Torry's coastal waterway

On the bright, crisp morning at -2 degrees on 23rd January, the Old Torry Community Centre Association SCIO launched a new project through Facebook Live. Streamed from Greyhope Road, looking towards the calmly sparkling surface of the North Sea and steady leading lights, it even featured a surprise visit from a wild seal who popped up to show their face. A fitting start to the project celebrating the natural beauty, culture and nature of the waterways that surround this area of Aberdeen.

Torry Ecomuseum Project (TEP) is a virtual community arts project and has been developed with funding awarded by Historic Environment Scotland (Coast and Waters Heritage Fund), St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, The Stafford Trust, among other donations and in-kind support.

The concept of "Ecomuseum" originated in France in the 1970s. It is a museum without building nor collection that centralises a place's identity and both tangible/intangible heritage through community engagement. TEP highlights Torry's enduring relationship with its built and natural environment through people's participation in the creation of three interactive online exhibitions on Old Torry Community Centre's website (oldtorry.org.uk/tep/).

For the Coastal & Waterway Map, we are looking for location-specific

images and stories to show the diversity of waterways and coastal environments that surround Torry. To the Pictorial Timeline, we are looking for moment-specific images and stories to show the changing face of the coastal and waterways related to Torry. The images can be digital photos taken by yourself or old photos from your family album.

Torry-Yubari Exchange continues the existing international links of the area. This twinning exchange was initiated in 2018 with Yubari community in Japan through Shimizusawa Project. Every few weeks one community member from each location is invited to share perspectives, introducing their locality to overseas friends who have never visited their city. This exchange is hosted on the website and Instagram ([instagram.com/torry_yubari/](https://www.instagram.com/torry_yubari/)).

A celebratory arts event is planned towards the end of the project, to tell the diverse stories of the changing face, direction and ecology of the coast and waterways viewed from Torry.

Be part of the project and follow us for any updates!

Torry Ecomuseum Project website: oldtorry.org.uk/tep/

Contact:
torryecomuseumproject@gmail.com

Twitter: @OldTorry

Facebook: @
OldTorryCommunityCentre

Instagram: @oldtorrycc





DolphinFest marks the end of a nine-year project

DolphinFest took place 7-11 April with a host of marine themed online events to celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters and mark the end of RSPB Scotland's popular Dolphinwatch project, which has seen thousands of people visit Torry Battery since 2013 to see the bottlenose dolphins regularly spotted there along with school visits and community events.

Supported by EventScotland as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21, where Scotland continues to celebrate its coasts and waters with a programme of activities and events which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape, DolphinFest was a celebration of the amazing marine wildlife around Aberdeen and the North-East coast and aimed to encourage people to help protect it.

The online festival which is available to watch back until the end of April, saw a series of events take place

daily including marine themed story time sessions hosted by TV Presenter Rory Crawford, take action talks and live Q&As by a number of organisations showcasing their incredible work and ways people can get involved and recorded wildlife tours to inspire folk to get out and enjoy their local environment. In addition, inspiring young speakers shared their incredible work in a young conservationist webinar, while the popular Big Noise Torry's Dolphin Orchestra returned with a brand new marine inspired showpiece.

Throughout the festival people were encouraged to take action to protect the marine environment by taking part in the Big Blue Clean Up event, with Turning the Plastic Tide offering their top tips for safe litter picking. The festival also showcased a brand new online marine puzzle game by local company The Locked Door, dubbed Treasure Quest.

The final day of the festival enjoyed a 'pub' quiz by Edinburgh based company Goose's Quizzes and saw a sneak peek at the all new Greyhope Stories – a web based educational and storytelling platform by Greyhope Bay. The festival then concluded with a celebratory video looking back at the nine years of Dolphinwatch, with interviews sharing peoples favourite memories and moments about the project.

All DolphinFest content is available to view until the end of April. The full programme is available to download at rspb.org.uk/dolphinwatch.

Dolphinwatch was a project led by RSPB Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Whale and Dolphin Conservation from 2013-2021. It comprised of seasonal dolphin viewing, community outreach, a school programme and DolphinFest. The project was supported and funded throughout the years by a number of organisations.

Councillor Comments

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

I hope you have all been staying safe and well and are not too battle weary from Covid-19. It's been a long haul.

Ward matters

Noise nuisance has been a problem for residents, I have had regular contact with Aberdeen Harbour Board regarding excess noise at both harbours, especially overnight, and will continue to work on your behalf. Residents should report noise disturbance that is particularly problematic to ahep-info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk

Fly tipping continues, this is a fire hazard and a health hazard. Once the council uplift service is reinstated, please use it to request

removal of bulky items. Council tenants get four free uplifts a year. I am working with council officers to better respond to several fly tipping hot spots in the area.

Likewise, littering is an ongoing issue, folks enjoying the outdoors comes with a responsibility to take litter home. I have requested litter bins are placed at the North Balnagask car park and other locations across Torry. A huge thank you to all our volunteer litter pickers, what a difference you make, but please remember to adhere to physical distancing requirements, and stay safe at all times.

Covid-19 vaccine

A huge thank you to everyone

for your commitment during the Covid-19 pandemic to keeping each other safe. What a journey it's been and the scale of community spirit in Torry has been immense.

The road ahead will be bumpy, so it is vital that anyone who needs support seeks help as soon as possible.

Please get in touch if you wish to report anything that is impacting on you or others around you:

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

07971 707 278

or email

audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Stay safe everyone!

Councillor Yvonne Allan

Hi Folks

This pandemic has shown how people in Torry care about each other. Folks have been supporting and helping each other throughout this time and it has shown up all the good in our community.

We are getting there with the vaccination programme well on its way and our kids getting back to school. They will have a lot to catch up on and it will be tough for all involved.

It has been tough in council trying to support all who need us. Fairer Aberdeen have been doing a

power of work supporting food banks, mental health counselling agencies and many other groups of volunteers who are helping folk. Most recently in Torry some of the groups supported are Tullos Community Garden, St Fitticks Rotary and Old Torry Community Centre. Many of the city support groups also help in Torry.

I must thank all our care staff both in our homes and other carers. It is very hard for these staff caring for our old folks. Teachers in our schools have been doing their utmost to keep our children up to scratch with their work under these

very difficult circumstances. It has not been easy for parents either try to keep everyone happy and home schooling.

I'm sure you are all missing the groups you would normally attend as well. However, we must all stick with it and I am sure we will come out the other end as a stronger and caring community.

Take care and stay well,

Councillor Yvonne Allan

yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

07802 332725



Tenants Participation - Make 2021 the Year You get Involved

Fay Morrison, Aberdeen City Council Tenant and Carol Hannaford, Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council:

So, what is Tenant and Resident Participation and what do we do? I (Fay) have been involved for several years now and I really enjoy working with Carol, other members of the groups and the Council. I have learnt so much about housing, have met many council officers and understand what it is like to be a tenant and what the council is all about.

One of my favourite groups is the Housing Service Review Group. This group reviews council services and makes recommendations on how the service could be better from a customer viewpoint but we also highlight what is working well. This is a great way for the council to get feedback – after all who better to review services than the customers who receive them.

There are various groups you can get involved with – Citywide Multi Story Group, Citywide Sheltered Housing Group, Events and Communication, Tenant and Resident Forum (TARF), Housing Performance and Budget Group and our Youth Housing Network.

But these groups are not the only way to get involved – Carol will explain a bit more...

The council has a legal obligation to involve tenants and residents in their housing service but more importantly they want to involve you. If you want to get involved you can join a group or take part in some of the area specific work we do. You can also write an article for Newsbite, our tenant magazine or start a community group. You may have other ideas and suggestions so please tell us as we always need your help to improve our services.

Betty Simpson - Aberdeen City Council Tenant

In 2002 Aberdeen City Council put an advertisement in the Evening Express asking for tenants to be mystery shoppers on Housing Services so I was interested in getting involved. In 2004 I was invited to join the Housing Service Review Group and a few years later the group undertook a review on bathrooms and kitchens in 4 multi-storey buildings (Marischal, Virginia, Hutcheon and Grieg Court) by meeting and talking to the tenants for their views on the services

received from the contractors appointed by the council.

Paul McMenemy - Aberdeen City Council Tenant

I was involved in the North Group before it was changed to Citywide Groups and it was the Housing Service Review (HSR) meeting that I came along to in the Town House.

The group discussed doing a review involving tenants with the council then Committee Skills Training took place for about three or four months, before going to the Kittybrewster Depot for the Housing Repairs review. The group carried out its review of the Housing Repair Service and made some recommendations which Aberdeen City Council accepted.

Norma Groves - Aberdeen City Council Tenant

I went to a meeting in my area to find out what all the buzz was about and that was nearly 14 years ago now. I was not aware of the number of different departments within the council that dealt with housing so now I have a better understanding. We have a group for just about every need of a tenant, we also review the services we use and

would recommend joining us. You could bring some fresh ideas, new faces and meet new friends and learn about your council.

**Pearl Smart -
Aberdeen City Council Tenant**

In 1999 I moved into amenity housing and joined the Tenants Association. My husband had passed away 10 years before that and I had lost my confidence, so I went on training courses to build up my confidence. I started reviewing services provided by the council for their tenants. I enjoyed meeting heads of departments and their staff. I learnt how different departments worked and it gave me an insight to problems the council experienced in delivering services to tenants. I also enjoyed meeting with tenants for rent consultations and discussing how it was important to feed back to the council.

**Vicky McKenzie -
Aberdeen City Council Tenant**

I joined around four years ago as I was interested in getting to know more about how Aberdeen City Council spends our rent money and when I found out about TP groups, I was interested. I joined because I wanted to have a say in how our rent was spent and get the best value for our money. We get to hear about the budget and where it is being spent, why some things are necessary and get asked our opinion on where priorities should be.

I enjoy being involved and being consulted and I enjoy knowing where my rent money is being spent. I have met some interesting people including council officers and I have had training and attended conferences in some nice places but most of all we have had some fun!

**Wilma Cheyne -
Aberdeen City Council Tenant**

I have been a housing volunteer for the last three years after a friend recommended that I join. The meetings are a great way to learn about the different areas of the housing departments at Aberdeen City Council, finding out what happens with housing repairs, rent etc. You can ask any questions or raise any issues with staff and management at the meetings. It is also a great way to meet people.

**Florence B. Cal-Anglia -
Aberdeen City Council Tenant**

One of the best parts about being members of Tenant Participation (TP) is knowing that our opinion is being listened to by Aberdeen City Council. Meeting with senior management allows us to become meaningful Tenant Participators who make tenants aware of their right to be involved in the management of their homes and resources available to meet this right.

**Daniel Warren -
Aberdeen City Council Tenant**

Being involved in TP has allowed me to grow and evolve as a person, especially learning from being around so many others with so much more experience and knowledge. I've never seen it as a chore, more a privilege to be involved and to make such a difference.

**John Duncan -
Aberdeen City Council Resident**

I am a resident but used to be a tenant. I joined TP in October 1997 as I was curious how the council services worked. I have been made very welcome and have joined a few groups and would recommend everyone to have a try.

**Derek McGowan, Chief
Officer - Early Intervention and
Community Empowerment,
Aberdeen City Council**

Tenant Participation is vital for us as a council and landlord as it provides real opportunities to engage and work with our tenants to deliver and improve services. It's something that has provided great results for us all, most notably from tenants reviewing our services, suggesting improvements, and then seeing those suggestions implemented. It is an important way for us to build trust with tenants and show that we are listening to your concerns.

**Andy MacDonald, Director –
Customer Services, Aberdeen
City Council**

The voice of our tenants is important to me. Tenant Participation provides the council with an opportunity to engage with our tenants and this is how we can work together on initiatives that make a difference and benefit our city residents. It would be fantastic to see even more tenants getting involved and I would encourage people to join one of the groups. It is working together with everyone's input that influences the decisions about the housing services you receive, and it helps us make improvements for your area.

Final word

I wish to thank everyone for their input to this article. Hopefully it will encourage tenants to get involved. We do have fun as well as doing reviews. We visit other councils, do workshops, take part in discussions, have a Christmas party and celebrate awards we have won. Thank you all for reading this and hope to see you soon. Take care

Fay

For further information or to get involved please contact Carol who will be happy to speak to you

Carol Hannaford – channaford@aberdeencity.gov.uk or Tel 01224 522839



Volunteer Spotlight

We are excited to welcome Sochima Iroh and George Adam to our FM volunteers this month. Sochima's AfroBeats show has aired and George has recorded some scripts for Tell Us while he works on his own show.

We welcomed Kerry back with her music show. Tim, Alan Clark and Steven and Stephen Baxter helped us celebrate all things Valentines. Stephen Baxter also produced a new country themed show. Dave Whites third weekly show "Music Man" is now a regular feature on Monday evenings.

Digital Inclusion

The major focus this past month for our Digital Inclusion work has been getting the devices out to those that need it in the community. Despite snow blizzards and freezing weather, we've worked closely with our partners to support 46 households and individuals to get online in February alone, providing them with internet connectivity and tablets or laptops.

It's so great to get feedback from the recipients about the impact this programme is having, and we've had some really powerful ones including one about a recipient bursting into tears and saying "...nobody's ever given me anything like this before. Overwhelming."

We're looking forward to expanding our work and are eagerly awaiting the release of the 3rd Phase of the programme which targets a much wider range of household on low income. We'll be sharing information about this soon as we know more but if you want more information get in touch with Hiliwona or Kirsteen.

George
Adam



Sochima Iroh

An update from Grampian Housing Association and Torry Development Trust

In February we were delighted to find out that our application to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) was successful. The Scottish Government has awarded £1,408,965 for the community element of the Victoria Road School community regeneration project. This includes the development of a nursery to support families and enable them to balance work and family commitments.

Digital technology is now planned throughout the community facilities. Torry Development Trust has built a strong partnership with the Scottish Tech Army to help us achieve a digitally connected community space. Work is also underway with Robert Gordon University to increase the health and wellbeing of the local community through greenspace and accessible landscaping throughout the development.

At the same time Grampian Housing Association's Board of Management approved a proposal to progress to tender stage for the development of the project. In an area where there is high demand for affordable homes, the development will provide 50 affordable quality homes to meet the varying housing needs of families, couples and single people.

Demolition of the 1960s toilet blocks and the redundant buildings on the site is underway to prepare the site for new build and restoration works and new build later. Architectural heritage is important for the project and granite facing blocks and decorative features have been saved.

To keep up to date with our progress like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or visit www.victoriaroadschool.co.uk



Looking towards a greener future at Nigg Wastewater Treatment Works

by Simon Wrigglesworth,
Operations Director

Supported by our local stakeholder group, our team at Nigg Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) has worked hard over recent years to deliver a significant number of improvements across the site.

The key to the progress we have made in minimising unpleasant odours from the site has been investment in regular preventative maintenance and a focus on continuous improvement.

Odour complaints linked with Nigg have reduced to a low level, but any received are still investigated to determine the potential cause within the site and whether further improvements can be made. This information is important for our team to keep making progress. If you experience odours that you think are from Nigg, please report this to SEPA as soon as possible by calling 0800 80 70 60. SEPA will alert our team and Aberdeen City Council.

As we have made progress with odour issues, we have started to explore how we can have a wider and positive impact on the local community. Some of this is about things like making sure our HGV traffic always uses the agreed route through Altens Industrial Estate and doesn't travel through Torry or Cove. We are keen to do more to build relationships and support the community beyond our boundary fence – for example by volunteering with local groups. If there's an opportunity you'd like to explore, email volunteering@scottishwater.co.uk and we'll see if we can get involved as public health restrictions ease.



Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

VSA Carers Support - 01224 358631

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

Torry Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 0345 337 9977

Holburn Medical Practice

01224 400800

Local Councillors

Councillor Alan Donnelly

07747795870

Adonnelly@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Audrey Nicoll

0791707278

Audnicoll@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Christian Allard

Callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Yvonne Allan

07802332725

Yallan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by: Your husband or wife, your boyfriend or girlfriend, your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdfmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932. Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk