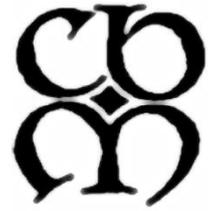


**CULTS BIELDSIDE AND MILLTIMBER  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



***The Future is Ours***

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### Consultation: Your Response to the Draft Community Plan

***The Community Council are keen to receive your comments, ideas and suggestions.***

You can respond either on-line at <http://cbmcommunity.org.uk> or by entering your comments on a response sheet which can be downloaded or is available in hardcopy form. If you wish to specify a particular question please state section number and then question number (eg 7.2).

Please send your response by email to [cbmcc@cbmcommunity.org.uk](mailto:cbmcc@cbmcommunity.org.uk) or by post to CBMCC at: 188 North Deeside Road, Milltimber, AB15 9SB.

### Abbreviations

ACC	Aberdeen City Council
CBM	Cults, Bielside and Milltimber
CBMCC	Cults, Bielside and Milltimber Community Council
CC	Community Council

## Introduction



*Guus Glass*  
*Chair. CBMCC*

The community council believe it is time for our community to consider how we want our living environment to develop in the future. Change is unavoidable and is an essential part of an interesting life but we should not sit back and let outsiders decide what should happen in our area. We should have a consolidated view of how to protect and enhance the local quality of life in the best possible way. The following pages present a consolidated CBM Community Plan covering most aspects of life in our area. The aim of this plan is to give an overview of the community, to reflect the views of the local community as to desirable developments, highlight potential developments which are considered undesirable and to identify issues that need further exploration. Depending on the issue, the view could be as long as the period covered by the City and Shire Strategic Development Plan, i.e. the next twenty years.

It is not the first time that residents have been invited to share their views on developments in their neighbourhoods. Several years ago a Neighbourhood Plan and a 'You Said It' report was produced on the basis of what came out of a number of public meetings across the city. In 2013 we also submitted a 'Toolkit report' on the main issues and desirable developments the City should consider for their Local Development Plan. These exercises age quickly and are difficult to retrieve/update as circumstances change. Modern digital technology will overcome these problems.

This new Community Plan will be a dynamic web based document with information and views obtained through a variety of means, including meetings (CC and other groups), questionnaires and social media but updated as and when necessary. It will form the basis for any responses from and proposals by the community council. We want you to keep us right by contributing your views now and in the future using the consultation channels given on the contents page.

This is an exciting project that will hopefully generate many new ideas for our area. In the end it is hoped that the Plan will form a solid, generally agreed and always up-to-date basis to respond to environmental initiatives and challenges in our part of the world.

*Guus Glass*

Guus Glass  
Chair, CBMCC

# 1. Cults, Bielside and Milltimber

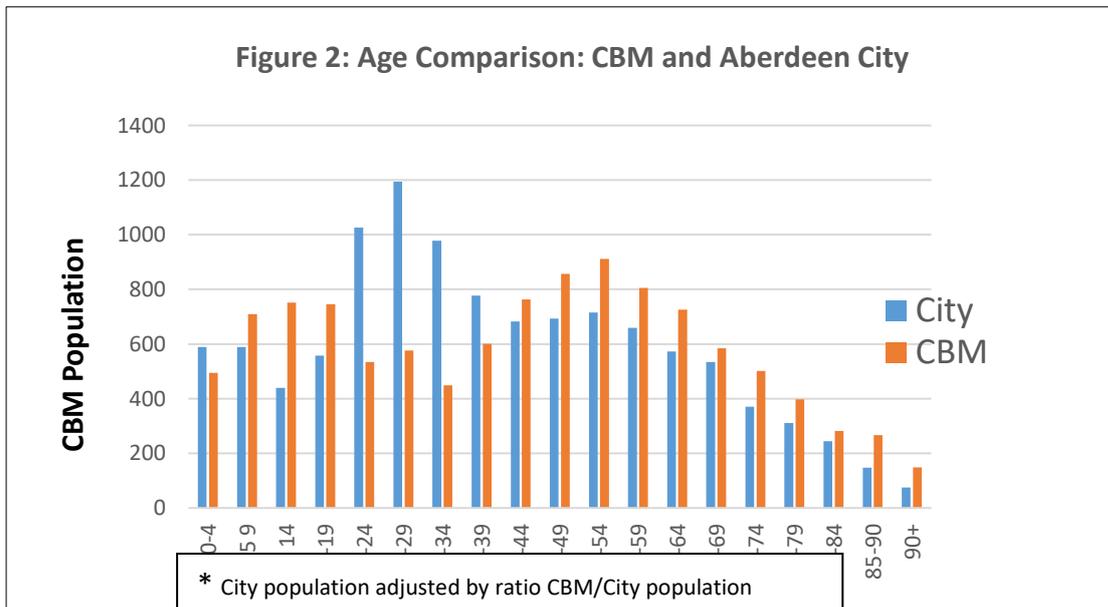
The three villages of Cults, Bielside and Milltimber (CBM) are still, just, geographically distinct and their outer boundaries are those of the community council. The southern boundary is the River Dee (which is also the City-Aberdeenshire boundary); to the west is the boundary with Peterculter; to the north the A944 (Aberdeen to Westhill road) and to the East lies Mannofield. The new Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route goes through the CBM area close to the west boundary and the northern part is mainly forestry and agriculture. The North



Deeside Road, the primary route through the area, is the main bus route and the majority of housing is either side of this road. The landform of the Dee Valley means that most of the area is on a South facing slope. As successive housing developments have moved further from the main road this has encouraged a preference for car use over public transport and pedestrians can be faced with steep side roads. Another issue is the potential loss of individual identity of the three communities as there is

progressive loss of greenspace with new housing and other developments.

Cults, Bielside and Milltimber are suburbs of Aberdeen City and were incorporated into it in 1975. All three villages are primarily residential and the total population is 11,390 <sup>1</sup> with a



higher than average elderly population, with 13.3% over 65 years of age and 6.1% over 80 (compared to 10.8% and 4.2% for Aberdeen City as a whole)<sup>2</sup>. There are an estimated 4,202 dwellings<sup>3</sup>. However there are a number of housing developments – see table below. Countesswells is a major development and will have more houses than Cults and Bielside combined and include both a primary and secondary school, a health centre and retail outlets. Even excluding Countesswells there will be a significant increase in population of upto 15%.

<b>Development</b>	<b>Current Houses</b>	<b>Planned</b>
Friarsfield, Cults	73	280
Oldfold, Milltimber	61	550
Countesswells, Cults	160	3,000
South Milltimber	0	60

The CBM area is, overall, comparatively wealthy with Bielside in particular being one of wealthiest areas in Scotland - home to the most millionaires per postcode outside London. In terms of household income, CBM has an average of £60,250, compared to the average for Aberdeen of £30,735<sup>4</sup>.

Health indicators demonstrate that the population of CBM has the best health of any area in Aberdeen. With regard to social deprivation, as measured using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>5</sup> (divided into 7 categories) CBM, overall is in the lowest category of deprivation when all 7 categories are combined and averaged. However in one category, 'Access to Services Domain'<sup>6</sup>, some small areas within the CBM overall area are classified as deprived based on car and bus journey times to essential services<sup>5</sup>. Unemployment rate is the lowest in Aberdeen.

However, although most residents in the CBM area are well-off, healthy and live in a pleasant environment, it should be remembered that use of averages can hide the needs of small groups in a community and also the apparently well-off can have serious issues – loneliness and hidden alcoholism to name but two.

### **Camphill Communities.**

One of the special features of the area is the presence of three communities supporting people with learning disabilities and other support needs – Camphill School, Newton Dee Community and Simeon Care for the Elderly.

### **CBM Community Council**

Community Councils, which are statutory bodies, set up by an Act of Parliament and established by Local Authorities, are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. They receive annual grants from the City Council. Community Councillors are all volunteers who have an interest in their local area and who have been elected by their local communities. Their term of office is 3 years. They have no executive powers.

The primary purpose of the Cults, Bielside and Milltimber Community Council (CBMCC) is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of the community to the Aberdeen City Council

and other public bodies. The CBMCC expresses views both on matters on which it is formally consulted (major strategic plans, planning applications, transport, waste management etc.) but also on any matter affecting the community. The Community Council is also involved in a wide range of other activities such as reviewing and improving local footpaths, supporting the MBC Festival and organising an annual carol concert – see [www.cbmcommunity.org.uk](http://www.cbmcommunity.org.uk) for more details. CBMCC has 19 members, including a youth member.

### **Consultation**

Views are specifically invited on the following:

- 1. How important is it to retain a separate identity for each of the three communities – Cults, Bielside and Milltimber?*
- 2. Are there any topics or matters which the Community Council is not currently addressing and which you believe it should?*

**Notes/References:** For 1-5 below see

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/tourism\\_visitor\\_attractions/tourists\\_visitors/statistics/stt\\_Home.aspx](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/tourism_visitor_attractions/tourists_visitors/statistics/stt_Home.aspx).

1. 2015 Population Estimates - Aberdeen City Neighbourhoods. Aberdeen City Council.
2. At a glance..... Neighbourhood population structures, 2015. Aberdeen City Council.
3. 2011 data increase proportionally to increase in population.
4. At a glance..... Household income by neighbourhood, 2015 Aberdeen City Council.
5. Deprivation in Aberdeen City. Measured in terms of income, employment, health, education/skills, housing, crime and access to services. An Analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016. Aberdeen City Council.
6. Based on drive times to GP, Petrol Station, Post Office, Primary School, Secondary School, retail centre and public transport time to GP, Post office and retail centre.
7. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

## 2. Community, Facilities and Amenities

There are a good range of facilities and amenities and a wide variety of social and voluntary organisations across Cults, Bielside and Milltimber (CBM). With a higher than average number of retired there is a pool of voluntary workers and many residents contribute to the community in a range of activities. Residents can also, and do, make use of facilities and amenities throughout the city. In particular residents of Milltimber make use of shops and facilities in Culter as well as Cults and Bielside.

### Facilities

The main shopping centre is Cults with a range of shops and cafes, with a smaller number in Bielside. The major supermarkets are outside the area, within easy reach if using a car but more difficult using buses. There are four churches, one hotel (Cults), one restaurant/inn (Bielside Inn) and a number of coffee shops and several take-aways. There is a community centre in Milltimber (Milltimber Community Association) and community rooms at Cults Academy. Other venues for community activities include the primary schools, Cults Kirk Centre, and the other churches.

### Amenities

- Sports and Fitness. There are several sports facilities including two swimming pools (Cults Academy and Kippie Lodge) and two golf courses (Deeside and Kippie Lodge), a bowling green and tennis courts. A wide range of sports and recreational activities are organised by groups and clubs. Most of these are listed in the MBC News.
- Play areas. Two in Milltimber and four in Cults.
- Schools. There are two primary (Cults and Milltimber) and one secondary (Cults Academy) and one special school (Camphill).
- Conservation Areas and Parks. There are a total of nine nature conservation areas and one park (the Allan Park in Cults).

**Clubs, Social Organisation and Hobbies.** These range from choirs to art classes to over 50s clubs. Over 37 are listed in the MBC News (although some are held outside the CBM area).

**Children and Youth Groups.** 24 are listed in the MBC News and range from parent and toddler groups to beavers, cubs and scouts.

**Churches, Faith Groups and Religious Organisations.** There are four Churches in the area: Cults Parish Church, St. Devenick's Church, Hillview Community Church and the Deeside Christian Fellowship Church. They organise a variety of social activities and support various groups in the community as well as providing general pastoral care to their members. Members of other church, religious organisations and faith groups are supported by their own organisations from outside the area.

### Current Key Issues.

The Community Council takes appropriate action, such as making strong representations, if there is a threat to a local facility or amenity. Two examples, which were both averted, were

the threatened closure of the Cults library and the possible loss of the post office at Cults. The Community Council also organises events, such as the Christmas Carol Concert and the Christmas Lights, to foster a sense of community and it supports other community events, examples include the annual MBC festival and the Deeside Food Festival.

**Community Council Objectives.**

To promote community activities,  
To ensure that there is no loss of current amenities and facilities  
To encourage and support new facilities and amenities.

**Proposed action**

To identify any potential threats to current amenities and facilities and take appropriate action.

**Consultation:**

Views are specifically invited on the following:

- 1. Most shops are in Cults, with a few in Bielside. Should the CC press for additional shops in Milltimber, and if so, where? Is the CBM area lacking any particular type of shop?*
- 2. Is there a need for additional facilities or amenities? If so, what and how might this be taken forward?*
- 3. Are there any groups or sections of the community who need additional support or help and where the CC might be able to help?*
- 3. Are you aware of any threats to the future of any current facilities, amenities or organisations?*

### **3. Roads, Footpaths and Transport**

The roads in the Cults, Bielside and Milltimber areas are becoming increasingly busy and at times congested. This is for a variety of reasons, both short and long term.

Short term: Ongoing the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) construction and continuing road repair work and road closures due to the requirements for services to be provided for new housing developments.

Long term: Some of the current traffic issues may be resolved when the AWPR opens sometime in late 2017 or early 2018. There is some uncertainty as to whether traffic flow along the North Deeside Road will increase or decrease following the completion of the AWPR and if any new and unexpected issues may arise as road users adapt to the AWPR. Other problems however will remain, e.g. the increase in traffic volumes due to the large amount of new housing either planned or currently being built in the area. A better link road between the NDR and Inchgarth Road/Garthdee is needed. The condition of the roads is also poor and unless the Aberdeen City Council undertakes some major repair work, will continue to deteriorate for the foreseeable future. The poor quality of road reinstatement after utilities works is a particular problem.

#### **Footpaths and Cycleways**

The main footpath and cycleway is the Deeside Way (formerly the Deeside railway) which runs East-West and connects the centre of Aberdeen to Ballater. There a number of other Core Paths (designated as such by the City Council) and a network of smaller paths, including some along the River Dee and others in the forested areas. The CBMCC has formed a footpath group to promote walking, improve the condition of some paths and signage and to liaise with the city authorities and other interested groups.

#### **Transport**

The Public Transport System in the Cults, Bielside and Milltimber areas into the city centre is excellent along the North Deeside Road itself, but is otherwise poor. Older residents in many cases struggle to get to a bus if they live a distance away from the North Deeside Road especially given the steep gradients of many minor roads. In addition, large housing estates are being built a long way from the road, i.e. not within walking distance and currently no bus routes are available for these estates. In the future, bus services may be provided, but due to the narrow roads in some of the areas, such services may cause added congestion. Attempts by the Bus Operators and Aberdeen City Council to provide bus services into the estates to serve the elderly or vulnerable have repeatedly failed due to the high level of subsidy required to support a small number of users; innovative approaches are needed to try and resolve these issues.

The use of private transport is increasing in the area for many reasons. The building of new housing estates all along the Dee Valley means that more people need to commute into Aberdeen or other employment centres, e.g., Dyce, Westhill, Bridge of Don along both the North and South Deeside Roads. The opening of the AWPR will relieve some of this traffic, but long term the trend is upwards. In the CBM area the large volume of house building will have a significant effect: many of the houses currently being planned or built are large and at least

two cars per house can be expected. The lack of Public Transport linking housing estates directly to the main employment centres will lead to lengthy commuting journeys and a greater reliance on private transport.

### **Current Key Issues**

1. Traffic disruption and access around the construction of the AWPR. The CC is in continual contact with the AWPR Project and attends their briefing meetings. Issues affecting local residents are championed by CC representatives.
2. Roads, access and transport requirements for new housing developments. The CC monitors all new housing developments and road developments and comments on all of them at the planning stage. The CC also lobbies for improved infrastructure to accommodate new developments.
3. The requirement for public transport for new housing developments and for older, vulnerable residents and those with particular needs. The CC is continually reviewing Public Transport needs for all new and proposed housing development. In addition the CC is in discussion with Aberdeen City Council and bus operators regarding the transport requirements for older, vulnerable residents and those with particular needs.
4. Road conditions and repairs. The CC works with the local elected Councillors to get Aberdeen City Council officers to address the issues with damaged and dangerous roads.
5. Footpaths. The CC has been active in ensuring the continuity of the Deeside Way during the construction of the AWPR and that a final satisfactory solution is found to its crossing over the AWPR.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure that the views of the community are fully taken into account in all roads, and Public/Private Transport issues in relation to existing roads, new roads, footpaths, new housing developments and other proposals, plans and changes affecting the local community. To promote walking and cycling.

### **Proposed Actions**

- To continue the current response to the key issues above.
- To continue to determine the views of the community – in particular the requirement for access to public transport for vulnerable groups.
- To further develop the work and membership of the footpath group.

### **Consultation**

Views are specifically invited on the following:

1. *Transport requirements for older groups, vulnerable groups and those with particular needs.*
2. *Public Transport requirements for new housing estates.*
3. *Repair status of roads.*

## 4. Housing

The Cults, Bielside and Milltimber area of Aberdeen is primarily residential with around 4,200 homes. The residential areas lie just to the north of the River Dee and are surrounded by farmland and woodland. The area is an attractive place to live because of its proximity to Aberdeen city centre and also its access to the Dee valley. The bulk of the housing in the area consists of detached family homes but there are also semi-detached houses and a number of low rise blocks of flats in Cults.

In the preparation of the latest version of the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan (LDP), formally issued January 2017, there were 45 developer proposals for greenfield development submitted for the Lower Deeside ward, more than 4 times the number of proposals for any other ward in Aberdeen. Some 28 of these were for the Cults, Bielside and Milltimber areas for around 1700 homes and 17 for Peterculter for 1300 homes. Fortunately most of these were rejected but one has been included in our area, the Bancon Milltimber South development for 60 homes and a small commercial development.

The current LDP includes three approved major developments for our area:

1. Countesswells (south of Kingswells and the A944) - a new town of 3000 homes (detached, semi-detached, terraced and flats) together with primary and secondary schools and commercial properties.
2. Friarsfield – 280 homes built in three phases on land bounded by Friarsfield Road and Kirk Brae.
3. Oldfold – 550 homes built on land to the east of Binghill Road including a new Milltimber Primary school.

### Current Issues

1. Preservation of green space – residents in the area particularly enjoy the open spaces close at hand both for their scenic quality and activity opportunities. Steady development is leading to the formation of a continuous residential area rather than maintaining some form of green space separation between the three communities. The CC believe a minimum area of greenspace and its location should be defined and protected. See also section 5 on the 'Natural Environment'.
2. Availability of school places. See also section 8 on 'Education'. Until a better forecast of school place demand and a plan for accommodating a growing population is developed, there should be no more approved new housing developments.
3. Type of housing available to buy – houses in the CBM area are predominantly detached properties with gardens although there is a greater mix of smaller semi-detached, terraced and flatted properties in Cults. There is a demand for smaller houses and bungalows from people living in the area who wish to downsize and also remain within the community. There have been a number of proposals from developers to build retirement apartments and while there is some demand for these, there is a need for a wider choice of smaller homes and bungalows. There is also a need for smaller affordable homes to encourage first time buyers and those on a low income who wish to live and work in the area e.g. carers.
4. Houses available for rent – there is an active rental market in Aberdeen and historically property in the Cults, Bielside and Milltimber area has attracted high rents. The recent

economic downturn in the oil and gas industry has dampened demand and the availability of rental property is not seen as a major concern.

5. Future demand for new houses – the area remains attractive for developers and also new residents to the area – new houses at the Friarsfield and Oldfold sites are selling as are some of the early homes at Countesswells. Demand is likely to remain high given the attractiveness of the area which will lead to growing tension between demand for land and the need to preserve green space and provide improved infrastructure. The Community Council will press for restrictions on new housing developments.

6. The ability of existing infrastructure to accommodate an increasing population. See also section 3 on 'Roads and Transport'. Residents of the approved new housing developments in the area will be using the existing main roads and commuter routes, either to get into Aberdeen or access the AWPR.

7. Pressure on public services e.g. GPs, pharmacies, dentists. See section 10 on 'Health and Social Care'.

8. Splitting curtilages (feus) - the area has a large number of detached properties, many with large gardens. There has been a trend in recent years to propose the splitting of curtilages for building a new house, or houses, in the grounds of an existing house. While the number of proposals has declined recently it is still an activity that requires careful review by the Community Council to ensure a proposed curtilage split is appropriate for the size of plot and that the nature of the area is not significantly altered e.g. increased density, reduced amenity.

9. Demolition and rebuilding – a recent trend is the purchase and subsequent demolition of an older property to allow the building of a new and larger house on the same site. While this offers benefits to the new owner – larger accommodation, more energy efficient property – it is important to ensure the proposed house is in keeping with the area and not too imposing on neighbouring properties.

There is a need to remember that there are several sides to the debate about new housing development: the Aberdeen City Council wishes to see Aberdeen population increasing to support and grow the economy, providing funds for the services we all rely upon; developers want to run their businesses and build houses; current residents want to ensure their quality of life is maintained or improved and that services and infrastructure are improved in line with population growth – balance and compromise will be needed from all.

### **Community Council Objective**

To ensure that new development in the area brings benefits to the community and that the pace of development is matched by the required improvement in infrastructure and public services to accommodate the new development.

To ensure that green space is retained and the nature of the community is preserved.

### **Proposed Actions**

- To continue the current policy and arrangements for monitoring and evaluating all planning applications.
- To press for restrictions on new housing developments.
- To explore ways of ensuring that new housing developments include an adequate number of affordable houses and smaller houses and bungalows.

- Input will be provided to guide Regional Strategic and Local Development Plans (the LDP review process will begin in 2018).

### **Consultation**

Views from the public would be welcome on:

- 1. The points addressed above, particular housing needs and how the Community Council communicates what is happening.*
- 2. Which areas of green space should be preserved at all costs and which areas may be suitable for housing development*

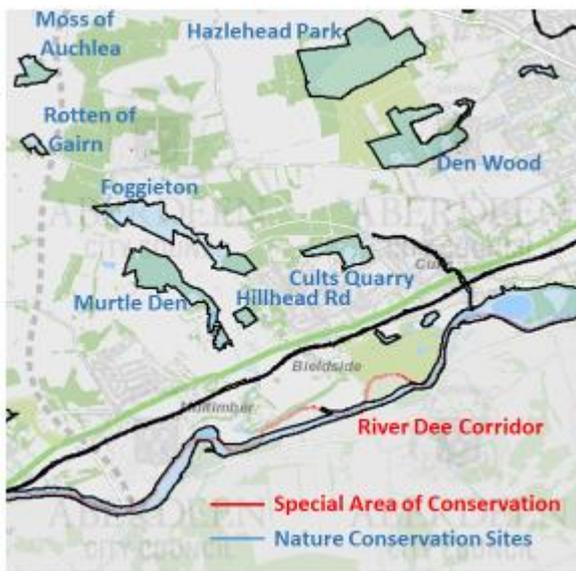
## 5. Natural Environment

The natural environment is one aspect of the overall environment – other aspects such as the built environment, the roads and transport environment and heritage are dealt with in other sections. Noise is generally not a significant environmental issue in the CBM area, apart from on a short term basis due to a specific development (such as the AWPR) and from traffic on the North Deeside Road. Atmospheric pollution is also not a significant threat, apart from the possibility of a pollution incident. The River Dee regularly floods and there is a floodplain on both sides of the river where it flows through the CBM area. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for this aspect of the environment.

The natural environment includes all ‘Open Spaces’ which are the open, usually green, areas within and on the edges of settlements. They can include parks, gardens, playing fields, woodland, river corridors, play areas, amenity spaces, allotments and civic space, together with associated flora and fauna.

Aberdeen City Council have published their [Open Space Audit Report 2010](#) and their [Open Space Strategy 2011 – 2016](#). Cults, Bielside and Milltimber are dealt with in both of these documents as being part of the Lower Deeside Ward. CBM in particular has a good share of both area and variety of spaces, some being the Deeside Golf Course, Cults Academy and Cults Primary School playing fields, Ladyhill and Foggieton Woods, Cults Den, Friarsfield and the Allan Parks, the green corridor of the Old Deeside Railway Line and the riverside pathway along the north bank of the Dee. Most of the open spaces are generally well managed, used and maintained.

CBM also has farm land with fields of arable and grazing providing green space around the periphery of and between the areas. All of this gives CBM an air of villages in the countryside even though it is within the city boundary.



There are nine nature conservation sites in the CBM area, but no nature reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSIs). There is one Special Area of Conservation – the River Dee Valley.

### Natural Heritage

The aspect of our community’s heritage that has recently been most obviously under threat is green space: the natural environment of river valley, woodland, fields and open space that help to make our area a pleasant place to live have been affected by housing and other developments. However Local Nature Conservation sites (LNCS) are protected

through Aberdeen City Council’s Local Development Plan. Pitfodels is a designated Conservation Area, as is the River Dee corridor. The Allan Park, six acres of land gifted to the

parish in 1897 by David Allan, is maintained by Aberdeen City Council and by voluntary work by the Friends of Allan Park, formed in 2013.

### **Maintenance and Improvements**

Public open spaces under the management of Aberdeen City Council are generally adequately tended to keep them tidy. Roads and walkways are generally kept reasonably litter free and there are only a few areas where litter is an issue. When necessary CBMCC has organized local litter picks at these areas.

CBMCC started an initiative a few years ago to create floral havens, including planters and hanging baskets, generally along the North Deeside Road - More Blooms in Cults Bieldside & Milltimber (MBCBM). Spring flower bulbs donated by ACC have also been planted.

### **Key Issues**

1. Threat of development of green spaces. This is an ongoing issue.
2. How to 'future proof' green spaces.
3. MBCBM displays have largely been possible by donations from organisations and grants. Sustainable funding is needed to continue this programme and the CC is actively trying to elicit a larger number of small public donations to carry on with the project.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure that the views of the community are fully taken into account in all proposals, plans and developments affecting the natural environment.

To conserve and enhance the natural environment.

### **Proposed Action**

- To continue the current response to the key issues above.
- To continue to determine the views of the community.
- To prioritise the green areas, and to study ways (such as community ownership) of protecting them from development. Also to identify opportunities to enhance some of the green areas (such as developing a nature reserve).

### **Consultation**

Views are specifically invited on the following:

1. *What are the most important green areas to conserve?*
2. *Ideas for protecting and enhancing the local environment.*
3. *Ideas for improving the outdoor amenities and environment of new houses*

## 6. Planning

The subject of planning runs through much of what the Community Council does – from providing input to strategic plans and reviews, through reviewing individual planning applications for our area, to thinking about what the community needs to make it a pleasant and enjoyable place to live. This section will address the formal elements of planning – the regional strategic plan, the local development plan and local planning applications.

Different bodies have a role in the planning system. At a national level, the Scottish Government develops legislation, national policy and advice on planning. Ministers develop the National Planning Framework, approve strategic development plans and make decisions on certain types of planning applications and appeals. However, how the planning system is run is mainly the responsibility of local planning authorities. Their main roles include: preparing development plans, master plans and development briefs; processing and deciding on applications for planning permission; acting as the local review body in certain cases; and taking enforcement action if planning requirements are not kept to.

Community Councils have a formal role, too. At each development plan stage they will be told that the relevant documents have been prepared, where they can see them and, in Aberdeen at least, will be consulted on the content; Community Councils should be consulted by developers on certain applications for major and national developments and by the local authority when planning applications are submitted.

A summary of the planning process and the various key plans which are established can be found in Appendix 3. The Community Council website has a planning section and various documents relating to planning reviews in our area can be found there e.g. the 'Criteria for Judging Planning Applications' used by the Community Council.

### Current Issues

1. A major concern for our community is the increasing number of new houses being built or planned in the area and the impact they will have on the infrastructure and services. The Dee valley is a very desirable area in which to live on both the north and south side of the river and as such attracts developers. Unfortunately there is limited scope to improve the road network, local schools are at or close to capacity and medical services are stretched. Nearly 1000 new homes will be built over the period 2016 -2025, excluding those planned for Countesswells which at 3000 homes will be a new town. See also sections 3-5. The Community Council will be making representations to limit further development for the next Local Development Plan.

2. The type of housing being put forward for development is a concern. Most recently developers have been keen to build large detached properties as they yield the highest profit margin. The community needs a mix of property types to cater for families, first time buyers and retired couples and individuals seeking to downsize while staying in the community they love and know well. The Community Council has repeatedly made the arguments for a better mix of housing and there are some signs that developers are beginning to understand the need.

3. As developments are put forward, there is a gradual loss of green space particularly along the North Deeside Road (NDR) corridor. We want to preserve as much as we can of the green space which acts as a break between our three communities to maintain the feeling of individuality of our communities. See also section 5 'Natural Environment'. The Community Council will make sure representations to preserve the green space are put forward for the next Local Development Plan.

4. Milltimber will hold a major junction to access the Aberdeen Western peripheral Route (AWPR). There is uncertainty as to how traffic volumes moving along the NDR will change once the AWPR is open. Regardless of how this transpires, a better link road between the NDR and Inchgarth Road/Garthdee is needed. This may only come through further development of green space at Inchgarth Road, highlighting that compromises between different goals will sometimes be needed. See section 3 'Road and Transport'.

5. There is growing pressure to use the Deeside Way as an avenue for development and we wish to ensure that this well used and enjoyed path is not damaged or access restricted by requests from developers to use it. The Community Council will work with your local elected city councillors to introduce protections for the Deeside Way.

6. When major developments are approved, there is a process for collecting contributions from the developer to go towards providing any additional requirements which the development may demand of services and infrastructure, e.g. additional school capacity, new or better roads, medical services, community space. There are strict rules and guidelines on what a developer can be required to pay for and contributions will generally relate to increases in capacity dictated by the new development. The Community Council is working with Aberdeen City Council to ensure that contributions collected from developments in our area are spent on needed facilities in our area.

7. The Aberdeen City Planning Officers are required to consider the design and choice of building materials as part of their assessment and they will look to ensure a quality design is approved. One person's good design might be considered by another as an eyesore so the Community Council will endeavour to ensure new development maintains a pleasing appearance in the community through its review of planning applications.

It is recognised that economic growth in Aberdeen City will need additional housing and that the Lower Deeside area will need to carry its share; the CC considers that this is more than the case. Thus we would hope to limit any further development proposals for the next 10 year period and preserve our green space as much as possible.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure that development which is proposed and undertaken in our area, benefits and enhances the community.

To ensure that planning applications get fair scrutiny and comment, when needed.

To ensure that residents have an opportunity to discuss planning applications at CC monthly meetings.

### **Planned Actions**

- To continue the current policy and arrangements for monitoring and evaluating all planning applications.

- To explore methods of consulting members of the community about planning applications, including questionnaires and public meetings.
- To make representations to limit further developments and about the type of housing in new developments.
- To actively contribute to the next Local Development Plan.

### **Consultation**

Views from the public would be welcome on:

- 1. Any of the points addressed above.*
- 2. Any aspects of the planning review.*
- 3. How the Community Council communicates what is happening and how it gauges the view of the community*

## **7. Heritage**

### *What Future for the Past?*

#### **Historical Sites**

If heritage is defined as inherited culture, tradition and natural environment as well as the concrete evidence of the past, such as historical sites, buildings and monuments, then the present-day community of Cults, Bielside and Milltimber still has a significant inheritance. However, much has already been lost. It is important to record, protect and preserve the community's heritage because, not only does it provide a valuable educational resource, it can play a crucial role in engendering a sense of place and contributing to local cultural identity.

This community's heritage includes a range of historic sites, from scheduled monuments like the 4,000 year old Bielside Cairn to listed buildings such as Cults West Church. In addition to the Cairn, among the most notable are the eighteenth century Cults House and its garden wall, the March Stones and the derelict Morison's Bridge. Of the five or six station buildings that existed on this stretch of the Deeside Line, only one, Cults Station, remains almost as it was; the others, Pitfodels, West Cults, Bielside, Murtle and Milltimber, have either been demolished or sold and converted to private residences.

A table of listed buildings and scheduled monuments is provided in appendix 3, together with a list of relevant books, internet sites and other sources of information.

#### **Institutions and Traditions**

As well as a large number of Victorian and Edwardian houses, there are the churches and long established clubs, such as Cults Bowling Club, founded in 1887 and Deeside Golf Club, founded in 1903. Such institutions are an important aspect of heritage, not just as buildings but for the social and community interaction they represent. The Cricket Club and Hillwalking Club of more recent date are also part of local heritage. Traditions like the annual Carol Concert and the MBC Festival, recently celebrating its fortieth anniversary, contribute to heritage, as does the MBC News.

One aspect of heritage not so far apparent is any record of Oral History of the community. It may be a less tangible form of heritage but valuable knowledge may reside in the memories and recollections of people. Older people can contribute to the recording and preservation of heritage; they are a resource of knowledge that is in danger of being lost.

#### **Natural Heritage**

This aspect of our community's heritage is covered in section 'Environment'.

#### **Conservation**

Existing provision for Conservation of Heritage involves the Community Council Planning Officer alerting the Council to any threats posed by planning applications. The Planning process also involves surveys undertaken, prior to major developments, by the Archaeological department attached to the City Planning Department.

Buildings and sites of historical significance can be protected by the processes of Listing and Scheduling, and green space preserved by the designation of Conservation areas like Pitfodels.

### **Current Key Issues**

There is a need to consider the fragility and vulnerability of heritage to threats from further development and to damage from erosion, weathering, vandalism etc

Perhaps the greatest threat to heritage is lack of awareness and lack of knowledge: if people are unaware of the historical importance and/or the vulnerability of sites, they are not likely to be concerned about protecting and preserving them.

An obvious issue for the community to consider is Morison's Bridge which has been on the Buildings At Risk Register since 1991. Its derelict state cannot be easily dealt with as it is protected by its A-listed status, recently changed to B-listed, but previous attempts at repair and or restoration have been thwarted or reversed by flood damage. The problems and cost involved in conserving it seem to render it an insoluble problem, but the CC is currently reviewing options.

The CC has submitted an application to Scottish Heritage for the Cults Station to be listed and is also preparing a detailed case for the Cults Pumping Station (next to Cults Hotel) to also be listed. The CC has also recently organised a heritage walk as part of the MBC Festival and articles on heritage have been published in MBC News.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure there is a full and informed debate before any decision taken which would destroy or affect any buildings or sites of historical interest; to promote their preservation, restoration and conservation and to raise awareness of our heritage.

### **Proposed Actions**

- To form a heritage group on a permanent basis.
- To inform and educate residents about their heritage, eg through the installation of information boards and heritage trails.
- To identify priorities for possible heritage projects.
- To investigate funding sources such as Heritage Lottery Fund

### **Consultation**

Views are invited on any aspect of local heritage but particularly on the following issues:

- 1. Should the community council be actively involved in researching, protecting and promoting local heritage sites?*
- 2. Which aspects of local heritage should the community council seek to record, protect and preserve?*
- 3. Which local heritage sites should be priorities for the community council to protect?*

## 8. Education

State schools in Aberdeen are owned and operated by Aberdeen City Council which acts as the Education Authority. A detailed document on educational arrangements and schools in the CBM area is available as appendix 2

**Primary Schools.** There are two primary schools in the CBM area:

- Cults Primary which has approximately 540 children in P1-7. The nursery runs four sessions, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Each session has places for 20 children.
- Milltimber Primary which has approximately 222 pupils in P1-7 plus 40 children in the Nursery.

### **Secondary School - Cults Academy**

Cults Academy is the largest state school in Aberdeen. Founded in 1967, it was the recipient of The Sunday Times Scottish State Secondary School of the Year Award 2008 due to its outstanding exam results.

The current capacity of Cults Academy is 1141. Aberdeen City Council predicts that the school roll will rise to 1313 by 2019.

Cults, Milltimber and Peterculter Primary schools are all included in the Cults Academy catchment zone. Pupils attending Lairhillock School, and those children resident in the Lairhillock School zone but attending other primary schools, who are currently zoned to Cults Academy, remain entitled to attend Cults Academy.

### **Private schools**

There are 4 private schools in Aberdeen admitting secondary age pupils, some of which also have junior schools and nursery care.

- Robert Gordon's College (co-educational)
- St Margaret's School for Girls
- Albyn School (co-educational)
- International School of Aberdeen (co-educational)

### **Special Needs**

Camphill School, part of the Camphill Community, provides education for pupils with learning disabilities and other support needs.

### **Further and higher education:**

Vocational education in Aberdeen is provided by North East Scotland College and through apprenticeships.

All Scottish universities, including both Aberdeen University and the city's Robert Gordon University, are public universities and funded by the Scottish Government.

### **Adult Education.**

In 2011 the organisation and management of community adult learning programmes were transferred from the city council to local communities. In our area this led to the formation of the Lower Deeside Community Association(LDCA) for CBM and Peterculter. Due to a number of external circumstances, the LDCA failed to establish itself as a going concern and

although city officers helped out for some time, the current position is that there are no community led adult courses and recreational activities in our area.

Fortunately local clubs and churches are very active in the recreational field as demonstrated by the long list of activities published in the 'What's on' section of the MBC News. Also a number of private educators offer courses in the Cults Learning Centre in the community wing of the Academy.

For residents willing and able to travel, there are several community led learning centres in neighbouring areas, e.g. in the Inchgarth Community Centre and the Kaimhill Learning Centre in Garthdee. Robert Gordon University in Garthdee also has part-time, day-time and evening classes suitable for adults, eg Art classes at Gray's.

Further afield there are suitable classes in Aberdeen College and Aberdeen University's Centre for Lifelong Learning offers classes in eg Archaeology, Scottish Cultural Studies etc. Day Courses are sometimes held in the Central Library.

### **Current Key Issues**

School capacity. There is a concern over the availability of places at Cults Academy for pupils currently living in the catchment area and those moving into the area to live in one of the many new houses being built in Cults, Bielside, Milltimber and Peterculter. A new primary school is due to be built in Milltimber to accommodate the increase in numbers expected with the housing development at Oldfold. As part of the Countesswells development a Primary school is due to be built after 500 homes have been sold, which could be in 2019, and a secondary school after 1,000 homes sold. The CC is actively discussing and monitoring these developments.

The Community Council has been informed of the following issues but has not actively debated them:

- Knife crime. Youngsters in Aberdeen are being urged to sign a pledge, whereby they will not carry weapons and report anybody they see doing so. The 'Life not Knife' campaign has been launched by Aberdeen City Council following the death of a pupil at Cults Academy in October 2015.
- Governance Review. The Scottish Government launched a Governance Review of early years and schools' education in 2016. Views are currently being sought across Scotland on how education is run: who should take decisions in relation to the education of children and young people and how the funding of education can be made fairer.
- Staffing shortage. There are concerns that schools in Aberdeen may close because of a "crisis" in recruiting teachers. In June 2016 Aberdeen City Council stated there were 134 empty teaching posts in the city. Retention and recruitment of teachers throughout the city remains challenging. This a particular issue for CBM area due to the lack of affordable housing in the are

Adult learning and recreation in the area is totally relying on private initiative. Residents who do not find anything to their liking locally, look elsewhere in the City or neighbouring Shire and are willing to travel. This situation is to the disadvantage of residents who are less mobile, due to age, mental problems or family circumstances who may experience loneliness. Although churches and the Cults Over-50 club do splendid work in the area, there could be a case for the introduction of targeted community led activities.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure that the views of the community are fully taken into account in all education and issues in relation to school and further education provision in the local community.

To work with our elected local councillors to ensure that school places are available for children who live in the area and that realistic planning of school capacity is performed.

To ensure that the locally available adult learning and recreational activities target vulnerable residents,

### **Consultation**

The CC is not able to deal with individual complaints, but will always consider investigating any general issues that may arise.

*1. Views are invited on any relevant educational matter.*

*2. Suggestions are welcome as to how the CC can ensure it is aware of local needs.*

## 9. Youth

The CBM CC area is a very nice area for youth (under 18 years old) as it has good schools, numerous school clubs, good leisure facilities, i.e. sports centre at Cults Academy and Kippie Lodge, but it is not without some challenges. There is above average number, compared to the city as a whole, of youths in the age range 10-19 (see section 1). The main links of this section are with 'Education' and 'Community, Facilities and Amenities'.

### What are the aspirations of youth?

Based on my personal experience and general discussion with my peers, I believe that youth want things like:

- Meeting other young people
  - In an informal environment
  - In a safe environment
- Opportunities for:
  - Part-time jobs
  - Full-time jobs
  - Apprenticeships
- Activities that can support getting into Further and Higher education, i.e. to use in their personal statement.
- Safe and secure environment
- Good and cheap transport

### Positive things

- This is an area that can offer the development of non-academic skills, i.e. Scouts, Girl Guides, etc, which can be used by those young people that want to go into Further and Higher education, i.e. in their personal statement.
- Taking some classes at NESCOL from Cults Academy can be a positive experience as it gives students a stepping block before fulltime Further and Higher education.
- Taking classes at other schools from Cults Academy to give students a wide range of subjects. Furthermore, this has proven to help widen social interactions from places where it would normally not have happened.
- Safety and security for youth in the area, e.g. walking to/from school or clubs or bus stops or on streets at night, is good.
- Opportunities for apprenticeships in Oil & Gas.
- Opportunities for work experience for young people in national and international Oil & Gas organisations, and NHS, i.e. ARI.
- Hub Youth Club
- Caspers, after school club at Cults primary

### Age Profile

The ages in the Cults, Bielside and Miltimber area are relatively different when compared to Aberdeen City as a whole. See figure in section 1. Aberdeen City has a large number of people in their mid-20's to 30's whereas the CBM area has, relatively, a significant lower number, with Aberdeen City having up to 1,200 (figure adjusted by ratio City/CBM total population) 25-29-year olds and CBM only having (approximately) just under 600. The CBM

area also has, relatively, more older people between the ages of 45-90+ and more young people between the ages 5-19 years old when compared to Aberdeen City.

### **Current Key Issues**

#### 1. Opportunities for:

- Part-time jobs. There are some jobs available locally but many need to travel to the city centre, the bus service is expensive compared to other cities and almost everyone is on minimum wage at the lower rate.
- Full-time jobs: For those that have left school, similar to above.
- Apprenticeships: Though there are some good Oil & Gas ones available there is a lack of diversity among the industries which provide them, i.e. just because Aberdeen is an Oil & Gas centre doesn't mean everyone wants to work in it.
- There is a lack of variety in activities that can support getting into Further and Higher education, i.e. to use in their personal statement.

2. There are limited spaces for the development of non-academic skills, i.e. Scouts, Girl Guides, etc, i.e. there is always a long waiting list – sometimes for months!

3. Transport to/from school & town is expensive, for example, First Bus charges £1.10 for a child's single fare (£2.20 for a day pass) but Lothian buses in Edinburgh charge £0.80 for a child's single fare (£2.00 for a day pass).

4. Many young people feel Milltimber has an equal proportion of households with youth compared to Cults or Bielside so deserves similar facilities, i.e. shops, sports, clubs, etc.

### **Objectives**

To ensure that the views of the Youth members of the CBM CC area are fully taken into account and integrated into future plans for the development of the local community.

To protect and enhance the quality of life for young people growing up and living in the area.

To outline current issues, including positive things, in the area so that the Community Council is aware of them and can help solve any problem areas.

### **Proposed Actions**

- Liaise with Aberdeen City Council and First Bus to review fares.
- Consider when further development takes place in Milltimber to include shops, sports, clubs, etc as part of it. This would help with providing local jobs and leisure facilities.
- Continue to advocate employment in the Oil & Gas industry, including Sustainable energy, but also support other industries.

### **Consultation**

Views are specifically invited on the following

1. *How important is it to have more facilities in Milltimber?*
2. *How can cheap and safe modes of transport be promoted in the area?*

## **10. Health and Social Care**

### **Current Situation.**

Public health and social care is provided across Aberdeen City by NHS Grampian (NHSG), Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and a new organisation, established in 2016, the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP). This latter body was established by NHSG and ACC to provide integrated health and social care and has delegated responsibility for a range of local services, including most services provided outside a hospital setting but excluding children's services. The ACHSCP is divided into four localities, with the CBM area falling within the West Locality. A Locality Leadership Group has been established.

There are two General Practitioner groups within the CBM area, the Cults Medical Group and the Camphill Medical Practice, but a number of residents are registered with practices outside the CBM area, particularly with the Culter Medical Practice and Great Western Road Practice. There are two pharmacists and two dental practices located in Cults. A special factor in the provision of health and social care is the high proportion of retired people (see section 1). There are five nursing/care homes and a range of sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

### **Wellbeing and Support by the Community**

Health and social care provision by the by statutory bodies is limited by finance available from taxes and does not, and is unlikely to, meet all the needs of the population, particularly the elderly. Demographic changes, rising expectations and medical advances will all add to the pressure. Churches, voluntary bodies and individuals are all active in the CBM area in variety of provision for the elderly - clubs, lunches, short term respite care and befriending. These services are often more effective than if they were provided by the statutory bodies as they are provided in a spirit of neighbourliness and community.

### **Current Key Issues**

1. GP Practices. All GP practices nationally are under pressure – financially and due to GP recruitment issues. The large population of elderly people adds to the pressure. The CC has opened up dialogue with the Cults Medical Group and has made suggestions regarding patient triage.
2. ACHSCP. The CC is active in discussions with ACHSCP to ensure the ACHSCP is aware of current local issues. One issue is the future provision of GP services with the increase in housing (Countesswells, Oldfold and Friarsfield). The CC is represented on the LLG (The Chair of CBMCC is Vice-Chair of the LLG). The CC has also arranged meetings with other CCs in the West Locality to share views and co-ordinate input to ACHSCP.
3. Social Care. The large elderly population means that there is a high demand for social care input. The CC is currently investigating provision and establishing if there are any issues which the CC could usefully contribute to.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To ensure that the views of the community are fully taken into account in all health and social care issues in relation to new housing developments and other proposals, plans and changes affecting the local community.

### **Proposed Action**

- To continue the current response to the key issues above.
- To investigate the best way of determine the views of the community – in particularly vulnerable groups and those with particular needs.
- To undertake a scoping exercise to what local provision there is for the elderly, including those who have carers, covering clubs, coffee mornings, luncheons, short term (even a few hours) respite help, befriending.

### **Consultation**

Views are specifically invited on the following:

- 1. Are there gaps in local health and social care provision?*
- 2. The CC is not able to deal with individual complaints, but will always consider investigating any general issues that may arise.*
- 3. Suggestions are welcome as to how the CC can ensure it is aware of local needs (see 2 under Proposed Action above)*

## **11. Safety, Security and Resilience**

### **Crime and Quality of Life Incidents**

The Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber (CBM) suburbs are relatively safe and secure areas of the city. Monthly reviews of Crimes and Quality of Life Incidents usually show less than five instances in each category and serious crime is exceptional. Unfortunately, Grampian Police do not publish trend statistics on a local basis. For early warnings of potential increase of specific criminal activities the community has to rely on advice of local police officers in their meetings and through media communication.

The CBM area is policed by the Hazlehead Community Policing Team based in the Hazlehead Police Station. Local officers operate from the Cults Police Office in the Cults Academy building which is manned 24/7.

City Wardens patrol the area regularly but not frequently – averaging about once per three days - to spot parking and other quality of life offences, but due to the extensive and widely built up area to be covered they are not frequently seen.

A number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are operated in the CBM area. These schemes offer protection against opportunistic crime and unwanted cold callers and also may promote good contacts between neighbours.

Specific attention is drawn to the following common crimes in the area:

1. Car or motor cycle theft by house breaking or entering unsecured premises to find the keys. The stolen vehicles are usually recovered elsewhere in Aberdeen after being used for joy riding.
2. Theft from motor vehicles.
3. Housebreaking and forced entry into garages and sheds.
4. Speeding and inconsiderate driving.

Common quality of life incidents are:

1. Use of motorcycles on forest footpaths and the Old Railway line path
2. Rogue parking on double yellow lines and outside schools
3. Antisocial youth behaviour and vandalism

### **Emergencies and Natural Disasters**

Emergencies could come in many forms but the majority are caused by:

- Severe weather (snow, ice, heavy rain, high winds)
- Flooding (river Dee in spate, feeder burns overflowing, standing water)
- Fires (domestic, residential homes, industrial or forest)
- Major transport incidents (accidents, chemical spills, fires)
- Lengthy loss of utilities (gas, water, electricity)
- Disease control (human, animal-quarantine)

The main risk in the CBM area is related to flooding caused by the river Dee or due to excessive rainfall on the hillsides. Storm Frank caused considerable problems in 2015 when low areas

along the river were flooded and a number of houses had to be evacuated. The Deeside golf course was also flooded and out of use for several months as the floodwaters had deposited large amounts of silt from the upstream building site of the new bridge for the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.

In previous years excessive rain has caused flooding in Cults due to the Cults burn overflowing up stream. The area has also experienced a major hotel fire disaster in the past.

### **Key Issues**

1. Due to the limited number and frequent change of officers the activity of police and city wardens in the area – although reasonably effective - is not very visible. This will also be owing to the low local crime rate but it may make residents feel insecure and not knowing what to do if they are affected by crime. Information on criminal activity is also rather haphazard.
2. The area should prepare itself for any future emergencies by activating a Resilience Plan. A draft plan was prepared in 2017 but many aspects need to be completed and confirmed.
3. The traffic situation in the area will change materially after completion of the AWPR and the new township of Countesswells. This may affect road safety.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To continue discussion with the Police to receive a more systematic flow of information on security matters thus allowing trends to be monitored and seen by all.

To complete and activate the Resilience Plan and set up a volunteer team to provide early assistance when disasters might occur.

To monitor the future traffic situation and call for corrective action if needed.

### **Consultation**

1. *Are there any security issues that would require special attention of the Police or Wardens?*
2. *Are there any traffic safety issues that have not been addressed to date?*
3. *If it is agreed that it is essential to have a Resilience Plan for the CBM area would you volunteer to be involved either personally or by providing equipment/facilities?*

## 12. Consultation, Communication and Media

Community Councils were set up with Local Government re-organisation in 1973. Their general purpose is defined in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and Section 22 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 as being:

“to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authority for its area and to public authorities the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable”.

One of the greatest challenges of the Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber Community Council is establishing the views of the community, which has a population greater than 12000. The Community Council employs several means to share information with the community and to provide the opportunity for public feedback and comment. These are:

- Community Council website
- Community Council Facebook page
- Quarterly Community magazine ‘MBC News’
- Ten meetings open to the public during the year
- Posting of meeting agendas and minutes at the Cults library
- Occasional use of the Next Door website to seek input from local residents
- In addition, the contact details of the Community Council Officers are made public.

### Current Issues

**Consultation** – capturing a representative set of community views. The Community Council relies on the public to come forward with views on matters of importance to them, either by raising them at the monthly meetings or by contacting the Community Council directly using telephone, email or postal mail. We occasionally use simple surveys to gather views. Is there a better way to capture a wider set of opinions that does not require significant time and effort?

### Communication

1. The Community Council website and Facebook page enable the quick sharing of information with local residents and those residents can respond using either email or Facebook comments/messages. These tools do require a public interest and ability to use them to make them useful. As of October 2017 there were over 600 Likes for our Facebook page; visits to the website are unknown.
2. The MBC News magazine is issued quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) to 4200 homes and it provides a useful means of providing news on things that have happened and information on longer wavelength future matters.
- 3 The Community Council website provides information on current events as well as details of Community Council meetings (agendas, minutes).

Officers of the Community Council occasionally give presentations to local groups e.g. Cults Over 50's, sharing information on activity which could have an impact on the area.

Are there other techniques we can employ which would be manageable by the volunteer members of the Community Council?

**Media management** – dealing with the press. The officers of the Community Council are often contacted by the local press for comments on events which have taken place or are currently happening in our area. The Community Councils Handbook 2012 provides useful advice on dealing with journalists to ensure that no comments are made which could compromise the Community Council and its members later.

**Engaging Aberdeen City Council officers** on the views of the Community Council. The Cults, Bielside and Milltimber Community Council sits within the Lower Deeside electoral ward and we have three City Councillors to represent our views and those of the local electorate. The councillors elected at the 2017 local elections were; Phillip Bell, Marie Boulton, Tauqeer Malik. The City Councillors are useful contacts for hearing details on City Council plans and also for raising issues for the attention of City Council Officers. Community Council Officers also make direct contact with some City Council Officers on matters relating to the community.

### **Community Council Objectives**

To establish a representative view of our community as possible on matters that will, or could have, an impact on the lives of those people living in the community.

To present the community views to the Aberdeen City Council and other Scottish Government groups on local matters of importance and on government policies which impact community well being.

### **Proposed Actions**

- To maintain all the current arrangements for consultation and communicating with the public, the media and official bodies.
- To explore further ways of finding out the views of the community on specific issues.
- To develop a template for news releases and for use in dealing with press questions.
- To establish a list of contacts in the media to support CC communications.

### **Consultation**

1. *Views from the public would be welcome on the points addressed above, particularly on:*
2. *How can we improve the gathering of public opinion?*
3. *How can the Community Council share information and how can this be improved?*

## Your Response to the Draft Community Plan

### Response sheets available on-line or at Cults library

**Thank you for responding to the draft Community Plan.** You can respond either on-line at <http://cbmcommunity.org.uk> or by entering your comments and suggestions below. If you wish to specify a particular question please state section number and then question number (eg 7.2).

We would ask you to tick the following boxes as appropriate:

Resident of: Cults  Bieldside  Milltimber  Other

Age: Under 20  20-65  Over 65

If you wish to add your name (or organisation) and a contact email please feel free and we will send you the results of this consultation:

Please send your response by email to [cbmcc@cbmcommunity.org.uk](mailto:cbmcc@cbmcommunity.org.uk) or by post to CBMCC at: 188 North Deeside Road, Milltimber, AB15 9SB.