



To: Councillor Donnelly, Convener; Councillor Carle, Vice Convener; Councillor George Adam, the Lord Provost and Councillors Cormie, Delaney, Dickson, Graham, Jaffrey, MacGregor, Malik, Nathan Morrision, Reynolds and Stuart.

Town House,  
ABERDEEN 15 September 2015

## **PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

The members of the **PETITIONS COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in Committee Room 2 – Town House on **TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2015 at 2.00 pm.**

FRASER BELL  
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

### **B U S I N E S S**

#### **PETITIONS SUBMITTED**

1 Crossing Refuge - North Deeside Road, Cults

**“We the undersigned petition the Council to install a crossing refuge near the junction of Abbotshall Road and Westerton Road.**

As local residents are having difficulty crossing from the bus stop near the above junction, we request that consideration be given to providing a crossing refuge. The volume of traffic at significant times of the day is high and the junction causes extra congestion making it difficult to judge how to cross safely. The elderly, the young and parents with buggies and toddlers are all bus users, and the problem is growing as traffic through Cults increases.”

2 Clean up Aberdeen Harbour Beach and Coastal Path

**Statement:**

We the undersigned petition the council to perform a clean up and necessary maintenance of the Harbour Beach below Torry Battery, where littering and flytipping has reached an unacceptable level.

**Justification:**

Something must be done regarding the amount of litter at the harbour beach/coastal path below Torry Battery. Not only can litter be found on the beach itself, but large amounts of household waste appear to be dumped down the side of the cliff from the road above.

Many people regularly enjoy visiting this beautiful area of the city to watch the local wildlife. At weekends the beach is always busy with photographers, dog walkers, young people and families. Considering the numerous health benefits of spending time outdoors, this area is an invaluable asset to the local community.

Excessive litter is not just an eyesore but dangerous to the people and pets who enjoy this beach. Litter poses a significant threat to the environment and marine wildlife, particularly seabirds. It's also unacceptable that children should have to play and rock-pool amongst empty beer cans and other waste.

Few cities can boast such an excellent dolphin watching spot so close to its centre – something Aberdeen City Council is seriously undervaluing. Aberdeen has huge potential to attract wildlife tourism; if only its natural spaces were given the attention and protection from vandalism that they deserve.

I propose the following measures to be undertaken:

An initial intensive clean up of litter by council staff AND invitation to the general public to help. People putting in hard work will be less likely to litter or to tolerate others doing so;

Following this, regular litter collecting by the council to avoid the beach getting in such a bad state again;

Improved waste collection services in the local area if this is the root cause of the fly tipping;

Additional bins on the beach itself and not just in the car park;

Signage prohibiting fly tipping and explaining it to be a chargeable offence;

Improved signage showcasing the fantastic wildlife which can be seen in the area;

Closing up of the stone shelter opposite the car park which encourages antisocial behaviour;

Education of local school children in Torry as to the effects of littering on marine wildlife, drawing special attention to their local harbour beach; and

General maintenance/leveling of the paths leading down to the beach and around the base of the cliff. This will make it safer and more accessible to all.

### 3 Marischal Square Investment

We the undersigned petition the council to The public wants to know the details of the investment decision process that Aberdeen City Council followed from the initial idea to vacate St. Nicholas House through to the award of contract to Muse/Aviva for the Marischal Square development that ultimately led to the council's decision to deliver guaranteed annual lease payments to Aviva over 35 years for a hotel, retail and office space at Marischal Square. The Information to be provided should include, but not be limited to, the following: • The key stages of the investment decision process. • The qualifications, skills and experience of those tasked with managing and executing the process. • The documentation produced to support the decision. • The stakeholder engagement programme. • Effectiveness and relevance of each and every consultation process. • The advice given to the council regarding State Aid implications. • The steps taken to alienate the Common Good Land.

The council should present the information at a formal meeting hosted by the Convener of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee. Sufficient time should be set aside for questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

Representatives from the following organisations and interested parties should be invited to attend:

City Centre Community Council;

Common Weal Aberdeen;

Reject Marischal Square Development campaign group;

Stop the Desecration of Marischal Square campaign group;

Any other campaign groups who opposed the Marischal Square development; and  
The local press.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### 4 Minute of Previous Minute of 21 April 2015 (Pages 5 - 10)

Website Address: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Iain Robertson by email [iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:iairobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or tel. 01224 522869

The Petitions Committee will take one of the following decisions:

- (1) take no action and advise the lead petitioner of the Committee's reasoning; or
- (2) agree that the matter be subject of a report to the relevant Committee(s) –petitions can be referred with or without a recommendation; or
- (3) refer the matter to a relevant organisation with or without a recommendation.