

Welcome to the ABOYNE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION monthly newsletter for
FEBRUARY 2015

This newsletter aims to keep our members up to date with any developments, major and minor, that are likely to have an impact on where we live.

MAKE A DATE WITH OUR AGM

We'll be holding our **AGM on Thursday March 26** at our usual venue - the Lodge Rooms, Aboyne Lodge School. Everyone is welcome. **Doors will be open from 7.45.** There will be -

- * a chance to speak to your local councillors, all of whom are invited and hope to attend
- * an opportunity to raise any issues that concern you
- * a review of the year, and a glass of wine afterwards

This year we want to work with other local associations to improve our area and create a better sense of neighbourhood.

The AGM is also where we nominate and elect new committee members. The ARA committee is at present made up of volunteers from one street and we do not think this is sustainable or good for the area. The core work involved is not difficult or too time consuming. As well as the AGM, we meet usually 10 times a year for a couple of hours. Anything above that, depends on personal interests, skills and issues that may arise. **We welcome new members. Please consider it and if you want further info, please email us; aboynera@gmail.com**

THE PARKING SURVEY RESULTS

The Parking Survey results were initially very disappointing. The council reported back figures that suggested a very low response from households - well under the requisite 60%. However, our feeling is that demanding such a high response rate is arbitrary and much higher than one that any elected official is able to command at either local or district level. Also, drilling down into the results we can see immediate and wide ranging discrepancies - even basic stats, such as the number of households in each street, are wildly out of kilter.

We are backing our various ward councillors who have now challenged the figures and the results, and consulting with our other neighbouring RAs about their reactions and responses. We will be attending March meeting on this subject.

THE BRICKYARD

Last year The Brickyard (the old Spotted Bull public house) was extended without the necessary planning permissions in place. The council took strong action here, but the appeal of the new owner was allowed, and the council's enforcement notice quashed. The new pub has been up and running since before Xmas. There have already been a number of complains from local residents in terms of noise disruption.

CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

Residents might remember that the CNC allocated some funds (£5k) to each of the 8 city centre wards to spend locally. In the absence of any other suggestions, the money will be spent on repairing and renovating the play area in Victoria Park.

ST CLAIRE'S UPDATE

The situation regarding St Claire's is complex and unresolved. A range of views were expressed regarding the initial proposal. One common concern, regarding the density of occupancy, does seem to have been taken seriously, as currently the council and Hightown (the charity involved) seem to be looking at an occupancy of ten, rather than 17. However, the way forward on this does not seem at all clear. Residents still have many concerns and unanswered questions, and communication does not seem to be working well.

STREET REPS

We have a lot of Street Rep vacancies at the moment. The Street Rep role is not a demanding one, we promise. There's a couple of meetings each year, when the Reps and the Committee meet to discuss local issues and how we can create a better sense of neighbourhood. And once a year we ask you to collect the very modest membership subscription. In between times, we ask you to be the eyes and ears of our Association, with your immediate neighbours encouraged to approach you with any issues, ideas or problems, often prior to you bring them to us. We really do need more people to come forward and take on this role.

You can contact ABOYNE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION at aboyne@gmail.com