

Feedback from the last Board Meeting

Gaps & Opportunities

Feedback to date from the Town Board

Facilities:

Due to the weather conditions we have most of the year it has often been said that these must be indoor; common comments was that we already have poor and dated facilities in the community centre without much else and with this being demolished it is important that something of scale is put in its place. A lot of people mentioned that it would be important for these facilities to remain in the town rather than relocating them to the new community campus at the edge of town. It was discussed that a smaller pool and theatre will likely be put into the space it was put to me that this is not enough and will likely be underused and barely open because of this.

Some of the facilities requested included:

- Indoor 4g football surface (aware of plans at Catto park for this)
- Basketball (there is a juniors basketball club in Peterhead now who make use of primary school halls at present)
- Netball
- Indoor carpet bowls (facilities in Fraserburgh and Mintlaw but not in Peterhead)
- Padel tennis (these can also be used for padbol)
- Pickleball
- Badminton (appreciate there will likely be a multi-use hall at the new school site)
- Squash (this was said once but someone who goes to ASV to play now due to lack of courts locally, aware of diminishing participation of squash nationally)
- Gym (will there be a council run gym being built when the centre is demolished?)
- Classrooms (multi use for spinning, yoga, dancing, gymnastics, pensioners clubs)
- Swim (several comments questioning how small the new pool will be versus the current pool)
- Theatre (someone mentioned that the current facility is too small and is often sold out whenever there is an event on)
- Soft play area (replacing the one in the community centre)
- Juice bar/café

A few people mentioned how the viewing gallery in the current pool was a good thing and something that set the Peterhead pool apart from the other facilities locally and should be

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something that is kept. With that in mind, viewing galleries for the other facilities requested may be a good thing like the indoor bowls, basketball etc.

A lot of people mentioned Aberdeen Sports Village as something that should be replicated but while this is likely unrealistic there are far better facilities in similar populations such as Garioch Sports Centre, Ellon Meadows and Moray Sports Centre Elgin.

The council does not run most of these units it would be useful to understand the business model they work around as this could provide ongoing finance to the board. The likes of these facilities have a large square footage and as such could take a lot of solar panels and potentially sell the energy back to the grid. The likes of Andy Murray and Duncan Scott have been very vocal about the lack of facilities across the country so there may well be ways of leveraging funding for this from other organisations.

There have been a few requests for outdoor facilities such as fenced and floodlight multi-use games areas (MUGAS) dotted around the town for unsupervised use of youths throughout the day and into evenings all year round, as much as 6-10 dotted around the town.

There was also a request for something like footgolf, football golf, there is a facility at Hazelhead in Aberdeen.

There was a mention of the sailing club being at capacity so there is likely demand for more of this and other water activities in the lido area.

Town Centre Accessibility:

Some of what was highlighted was:

- Taxis on Prince Street parked on double yellow lines making access to the car park on Prince Street dangerous. I have previously mentioned that a taxi rank replacing the Back Street bus stop would be a good idea, particularly when there is a bus stop already round the corner on Chapel Street. The entrance and exit of the Prince Street car park is not suitable for a major car park in town as there is only room for 1 car at a time, a re-design of this may be required (it was mentioned that the flats next to the car park should be demolished and the car park extended and modernised).
- Parking enforcement on Queen Street, Queen Street is a 45 minute parking zone but often there are cars parked all day, mainly by people who are working in premises on the street. This was highlighted several times, particularly by people with shops in the top half of Queen Street. Since the traffic wardens stopped there has been no policing of the street parking in Peterhead, only car parks.
- Chapel Street/Marischal Street should be fully opened to traffic and parking replicating Queen Street with traffic potentially splitting either down Broad Street or down Marischal Street onto Errol Street. There were a few comments around this, some of which involved lifting the cobbles to make it more accessible to elderly and disabled as walking on the cobbles can be very uneven; not feeling comfortable driving on the cobbles as haven't been allowed to for many years; further street parking places would be appreciated for quickly entering shops/drop offs beside cinema. In conversation with someone who used to run a business in pedestrianised zone of town centre they mentioned that this would hopefully improve the anti-social behaviour that happens here as there would always be traffic and people passing. There was also a comment to

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leave 1 street, possibly Thistle Street, pedestrianised for the market and events. At present there are issues with buses not getting past vehicles parked on Chapel Street as there are no designated spaces.

- Electric vehicle charging spaces in town
- Free parking – there was many a comment of the charges charged in the council car parks. One customer mentioned having just returned from the lake district and all town/villages offered 1 hour free parking then chargeable at 85p per hour thereafter. It was often said that the out of town centre retail sites in Peterhead and other towns locally are always busy with free accessible parking and clean and that this was causing people to visit these instead of town centre.

There was a general desire for more parking and easier access and that this would encourage people to visit town centre if they didn't think this would be an issue and are going elsewhere at present for bakeries and takeaways etc.

Visuals and cleanliness:

There was quite a lot of unhappiness with the general look of the town with comments that it looked 'manky' and 'Inverurie and Banchory were always bonny'. Some of the ideas around the cleanliness were:

- Hanging baskets/plant pots on all buildings in town centre to offer some colour and freshness, these would have to be maintained as previous work was left and went into disrepair, some was said about the bus station.
- Gulls – there were comments about the nesting and swooping (particularly at lunchtimes) but moreover the comments was around the general mess that accompanies the gulls
- Longate & Broad Street – there was a feeling that these weren't very appealing and looking like concrete blocks and some tree and plants along Longate and through the middle of Broad Street would help but as the first point it was mentioned that these would have to be maintained
- Weeds – there have been many comments in the past few weeks that the mess of weeds across the town are not acceptable. Across the harbour and town centre areas this was mentioned to be a put off to people.
- General Deep Clean – a feeling from some that the pavements and some of the communal areas are in need of a deep clean, I believe this was done at the start of the BID but not aware of any street cleaning in the town centre since other than the litter picking every morning.
- Litter and dogs mess – there have been mentions of this and it is not as bad as previously but is still an issue.
- Town Centre Buildings not kept – one business owner mentioned that it would help if some people looked after their properties and guttering.
- Roundabouts at entrance to town – 3 main entry points to the town from the Aberdeen, Longside and Fraserburgh roads should be more visually attractive and set a better first

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impression to visitors. Large installations in the middle of each roundabout of relevant things e.g., fishing boat, oil rig, wind turbine would make these noticeable.

- Swing parks around town – some of these have been updated and improved in recent years but other require more work or rebuilt.
- Linking of paths and utilising waste ground. Linking of the Maggie Blacks Trail and Railway line and other have added that this area of green space could be made into an Aden Park style park/wooded walk. At present this is ground which looks abandoned. The same has been said of the abandoned look of the site on Catto Drive and sites in the town centre, harbour area and the site of the Clerkhill Inn, there are many more around the town.

Marketing:

It has been said that Peterhead should be promoting what it has a good abundance of and highlighting the things that already happen in the town:

- One conversation mentioning ‘Peterhead, the destination for.....’. As a town with the coast all around us, there is no real passing traffic in Peterhead, unlike the likes of Inverurie, Ballater, St Andrews (these often came up as towns to replicate) so naturally the town is a destination anyway but one person from Ellon mentioned that Peterhead was lucky to have 3 butchers as Ellon didn’t have one so potentially there is a marketing push around Peterhead, the destination for fresh food and drink highlighting the butchers, bakers, fish shops, brewtoons etc. There is also a lot of people who travel to Peterhead for the cinema, museums as well baby clothing and equipment (as we sell this ourselves I won’t push this).
- There are always comments of there is nothing in Peterhead but the past board meetings have highlighted there is quite a lot happens in the town already between all of the clubs, events and the town trail so a website that brings all of this information together would be a good starting point to get more people involved. For example: What’s available in town, Town Trail route, recommended walking/running routes, retail/hospitality offering by category, volunteering etc.

General Feedback

You are better having something(s) big to show at the end of this funding rather than splitting it into lots of little pots that produce nothing or very little at the end of the 10 years.

Suggest engaging with the wind companies and developers to gain their thoughts on what they would like to see in the town

Town Board Members also highlighted projects and activities already underway in the town.

Peterhead Community Council are working on a project to refurbish and renovate the Reform Tower as a tourism heritage attraction.

Food Provision partners are working together on community growing and tackling poverty & inequality. Partners such as North Aberdeenshire Food Bank, Scottish Fire & Rescue and Police Scotland are running projects e.g. emergency food provision during the holidays - breakfast events.

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Stella's voice offers low-cost furniture and furnishings.

This feedback has been captured on the priorities and mapping spreadsheet and will be shared via TEAMS for the Town Board to view and provide further input.