

Torry's **Vision**

Autumn 2022



In this issue:

TORRY GREEN BELT
DEVELOPMENT
GREYHOPE BAY
YOUNG HEROES

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Torry's Vision

Autumn Edition 2022

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Torry Vision Letters to the editor page

The editorial team of the Torry Vision want to hear from you.

The team are introducing a new interactive section to the magazine and want to hear from the community.

In this section, you can write to the editors of Torry Vision, let us know of issues and events taking place in the community, send us your thoughts on topics we have covered. Have your say of what you want to see represented in the magazine and what you'd like to read.

Please email rose.ross@shmu.org.uk with the email subject TV Letters to the Editors to have your letter included in the magazine



editorial

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Torry's Vision community magazine.

This edition includes an update on St Fittick's Park and what might come next. Read on to find out what Torry's young heroes have been up to and find out about all the amazing events which took place in Torry over the last few months.

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 or submit an article then get in touch with Rose at SHMU on **0752586312** or you can email her on rose.ross@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





Image: Carol Will

What comes next for St Fittick's Park and Doonie's farm?

Government report backs plans to develop on Torry green belt.

By now, most, if not all Torry residents are aware of the proposed Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) and the Council's plans for development on part of St Fittick's Park and Doonie's farm.

In September, an independent team of government reporters produced their findings on Aberdeen City Council's (ACC) Local Development plan (LDP).

The LDP outlines planning decisions in the city until 2027.

The report backed development plans for St Fittick's Park and Doonie's farm as part of the ETZ. A project to develop renewable and low carbon energy in the city, in the hopes of reducing reliance on oil and gas.

Torry residents first discovered that part of St Fittick's Park and Doonie's Rare Breeds Farm were earmarked

for development for the ETZ project in June of 2020 when the LDP was first published.

Since then, local activists have been campaigning to save Torry's only green belt. The campaign of local group 'Friends of St Fittick's Park' aims not to stop the ETZ but to divert its development elsewhere.

After hearing the outcomes of the government report, campaigners have been devastated, but many may be unsure of what this means for the land, and what may come next for the ETZ.

It is thought likely that Aberdeen City Council will heed the findings of the report, however the plan must still be approved by councillors in the next few months.

If the plan is approved and the area in question is chosen to be rezoned, the ETZ LTD must still work with local

planners to determine a masterplan for the Transition Zone. Following that, planning permission must be sought to begin building on the area.

While Campaigners say that losing the green space will be detrimental, the report stated that "The environmental and economic benefits outweigh the disbenefits."

According to ETZ ltd the benefits of the ETZ include, the introduction of around 2500 jobs within eight years, and the possibility of cutting CO2 emissions by 136.4 megatonnes.

The independent report did introduce protections for the wetlands and wildlife located in the park.

Torry Vision Editorial Team would like to hear the views of the Torry community. Please get in touch by emailing rose.ross@shmu.org.uk and tell us your thoughts on the matter.

Have you heard
about the
CCL Listening
Service??



My name is Jane, and earlier this year I was appointed to the post of Volunteer Coordinator for the CCL Listening Service for Aberdeen City.

You may be wondering, what exactly is the Listening service – well, let me explain.

We have all felt down, low in mood, anxious about things that are going on in our lives, some within our control, but many not; after all who would have ever thought that we would be dealing with the aftermath of a global pandemic that saw us completely having to change our way of life, literally overnight, and that impact has lasting effects on all of us... and yet life just continues on its merry little way!!!

And so, the listening service is just that – a Listening service.

Unlike counselling or other forms of psychological intervention, the CCL listening service is an opportunity for you to make an appointment to speak to a trained CCL listening volunteer. Confidential and non-judgemental, our trained volunteers are dedicated to providing you with that safe space for you to talk about whatever it is that is impacting your health and wellbeing, without trying to fix the problem; ultimately the listener is there to do that, just listen, within a safe, confidential environment.

You may be thinking to yourself “but why don’t I just talk to my friends and family”, but so often people don’t

want to be seen as a burden or may feel that their problems are small in comparison to others, but within the listening service no problem is too small to be talked about. We also know that sometimes talking to someone out with our personal circle, someone anonymous but who is trained to listen, can be just what we need to feel seen, heard and valued, without judgement.

The Listening service is available at a number of GP practices across Aberdeen City, as well as the Health Village on Frederick Street, with us now providing a service at Torry Medical Practice.

There is no referral form required, so to make an appointment please ask the receptionist at Torry Medical Practice to make the appointment directly with the volunteer listener there.

Alternatively you can also make an appointment at the Aberdeen Health Village by calling 01224 65 55 55 and again asking for the CCL Listening Service.

Thank you for reading

Jane

Are you a good listener?

I am currently recruiting volunteer listeners in all areas of Aberdeen City. Listening to people’s concerns can help them feel less isolated and anxious while helping them feel more hopeful and valued in a confidential

and non-judgemental way. There is no requirement for volunteers or service users to be a member of a faith group, just be able to provide a service that has patients at heart, where they feel safe, seen and heard, allowing them the space to reflect on their own personal situations.

Experience required: Ideal candidates will be able to display kindness, empathy, patience as well as having a non-judgemental, open, curious, caring, compassionate mind-set. Experience of working with others in a listening setting in either a formal or informal setting would be ideal, combined with being able to fully commit to the initial training and ongoing support. (Volunteer listeners do not listen in the GP Practice where they are a registered patient).

Training: Excellent training and support provided. Induction includes 4 days compulsory in-house training, 20 hours of probation listening once the training has been completed. In addition there is a requirement to undertake a minimum of 4 supervision sessions yearly and 4 Value Based Reflective Practice sessions.

Minimum age: 25

Expenses Paid: Yes

To find out more please contact:
**Jane, Aberdeen City CCL
coordinator**

Tel: 07584 217 192

Pathways in Torry

MEET THE KEYWORKER – Stan Smith

Stan has been with Pathways for 12 years, working in the Torry area, helping people to find work.

Stan began his working life as a trainee on the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) before working as a refuse collector, security guard, labourer, and machine operator. Stan was also a full-time parent for a few years before he started work in the third sector as a support worker for Aberdeen Cyrenians in their crisis drop-in centre. He then became a consultant for Working Links helping to people to find employment, before joining Pathways in 2010.

In his spare time Stan enjoys working on classic scooters like Lambretta and Vespa, and then attending meetings with fellow enthusiasts across the UK. He also enjoys camping on a regular basis.

Stan brings all this experience and knowledge to his work with Pathways clients, helping them find suitable employment, even when the person cannot see a way forward!

Stan is at the Torry Skills Centre at 64 Victoria Road on Tuesdays from 9 am till 5 pm. He is also attending Old Torry Community Centre (2 Abbey Place) on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 pm till 4 pm. Stan is always in demand so please make an appointment, although you can drop in to the Torry Skills Centre but may have to wait to be seen.

To contact Stan call Pathways on 01224 682 939 or email s.smith@pathways-online.org to make an appointment.

River Dee Medical Group and Torry Medical Centre

Patients of Torry Medical Practice will have noticed many changes over the last 4 years.

We are really pleased that Since 2020, we have successfully built up a team of doctors and advanced nurse practitioners at the practice.

We aim to deal with patients' problems promptly. As far as possible, we try to ensure that patients see the same clinician through this process. We do not always have the capacity to deal with every query and call straight away.

To ensure we have a safe service that can always deal with serious illness promptly, there are times when we need to ask patients to call back later, or the following day.

We are very grateful for your patience when this means you have to call back. We aim to reduce the need for patients to call back by continuously investing in new staff.

Please check our website and facebook page for information and links to local resources. There are also videos on health screening by our own staff.

Finally, we are looking for any patients of the practice with an interest in shaping how we provide our service to join our Patient Participation Group. If you think you can help, then send us an email at gram.torryadministrator@nhs.scot





SCARF's Energy Funding Breakdown

The rising cost of energy bills is a concern for many right now, with a further increase to arrive in October and yet another expected in January.

However, there may be funding available to you to help ease the financial strain over winter.

Scarf, an Aberdeen-based charity and social enterprise, offers free and impartial energy efficiency advice to householders and communities. Funded by the council, they have a local home energy advice team in Aberdeen offering advice via free home visits and deliver the phone-based Home Energy Scotland service in the Northeast funded by the Scottish Government.

Advisors at Scarf can help householders access grants and funding, subject to availability. There are various schemes running now, and others that may open in the near future.

The Energy Bills Support Scheme is the main UK-wide programme announced by the Government in response to rapidly rising costs, in which all households will receive £400 off their electricity bill. You do not need to apply for the scheme - it

will be taken off your bill automatically in stages, starting this winter. If you have a prepayment meter it will automatically be added to your meter or you will be given vouchers. You do not need to supply your details to anyone to apply for this funding; please be aware of scams asking you to do so.

The Warm Home Discount Scheme is £140 off your electricity bill, paid between October and March. You are entitled to the discount if you get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit. You may also qualify if you are on a low income and meet your supplier's criteria. Please note that not all suppliers take part in the scheme, and the window to apply varies for different suppliers. Scarf advisors can help you find out if your supplier offers the scheme and if you are eligible.

If you are a homeowner, you might be eligible for funding to improve the energy efficiency of your property which will help lower bills. The Warmer Homes Scotland programme and the Home Energy Scotland loan may be available to you. Applications are made through Home Energy Scotland.

There are other schemes that you may qualify for automatically or by assessment. New schemes may appear and existing schemes may change to better support people through the energy crisis.

For up-to-the-minute information on grants and funding, get in contact with Scarf for free and impartial advice. An advisor can find out more about your household circumstances and help you apply for funding.

Scarf can also help you resolve issues with your energy supplier, and even contact them on your behalf; and their advisors can offer you tips on how to use less energy, as well as managing your heating system through an effective use of controls and timers.

Contact 0808 808 2282 for more information. This is the freephone number for Home Energy Scotland, a Scotland-wide service delivered by Scarf in the Northeast. Alternatively, visit homeenergyscotland.org/contact to leave a message.

GREYHOPE BAY COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

It's been a great first summer at Greyhope Bay!

Since opening the centre this past April, we have had a fantastic summer up at Greyhope Bay hosting the first season of our community programme. We were fortunate enough to collaborate with some brilliant organisations to provide a varied and engaging schedule, and it was wonderful to see the space being used to bring people together!

Artists Mags Gray, Elaine Grant, Kevin Morris, Emma Wilson, Aubin Stewart and Laura Sherriffs joined us from Deemouth Artists Studio to lead creative workshops throughout the season. The workshops proved to be a hit with attendees, and we were amazed by both their enthusiasm and the diversity of artwork being produced! We're excited to showcase some of their creations during an

exhibition we're planning at the centre in mid-October. Keep an eye on our socials for more details @greyhopebay. In partnership with Rose and Lauren from EGCP – Turning the Plastic Tide and with the support of ACVO, our "Clean Beach, Happy People" beach cleans over 360KG of litter was removed from the beaches around the centre across 9 cleans and with the help of 195 awesome volunteers! We'll be back when the warmer weather returns, in the meantime keep an eye out for our Beach Box at the lower car park which holds litter picking kit for your use any time. Just help yourself and leave it for the next keen beach cleaner when you're done.

The summer programme also included beach clean leader and Shorewatch training. The beach clean leader training by EGCP allowed

participants to gain confidence in carrying out their own clean-ups, while Shorewatch training encouraged participants to support the important work WDC do in protecting local marine wildlife by carrying out regular surveys.

More trainings are upcoming, and we're excited to soon be announcing our winter programme which is set to be our biggest offering yet!

Our current line-up features monthly beach-combing trips, led by our engagement officer Rachel, and we'll be kicking off our weekly community coffee mornings on Tuesday 11th October. The café will also remain open throughout winter, 10am-4pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

To stay updated with winter programme announcements and book onto our events, check out our events page: greyhopebay.com/events





Family fun day success from Torry's Heroes of the Cruyff Court

Young Heroes of Torry pull off a successful family fun day at Cruyff Court Neale Cooper.

Denis Law Legacy Trust and Streetsport held a successful family fun day at Cruyff Court Neale Cooper on the 11 of August.

The fun day was held as part of the Heroes of the Cruyff Court initiative, a scheme which empowers young people to become role models and leaders within their community.

Torry's own young heroes Kelsey, Marcus, Alaina and Lily had the responsibility of organising the fun day on the court.

The team of youngsters worked alongside Streetsport's volunteer coordinator and Cruyff Foundation Coach, Findlay Harkins, and Aimee Culley, Streetsport session Lead, to pull the whole thing together.

Organising everything from, activities and stalls, to catering, the team also

arranged a stall to raise money for the Kacey Seivwright fund. The fund was created in memory of Kacey, to raise money to distribute defibrillators to local schools and kids clubs.

On the day, Kacey's fund raised over £1,800 from the stall.

It was a glorious day for the event, hundreds flocked to the court to take part in all the free activities, enjoy the good food and soak up the sun.

Attendees enjoyed taking part in inflatable football darts and a fun run, after having a shot on the bouncy castle. BBQ burgers were catered by Armarak and there was an ice cream van and Pick 'n' Mix stall too.

Findlay said: "The young people involved were all brilliant at organising the fun day and can be really proud of their efforts.

"Cruyff Court Neale Cooper has been a fantastic addition to the Torry area, helping the Streetsport programme,

volunteers and participants grow together".

A further Cruyff Court, named in honour of AFC legendary Captain Willie Millar, is to be built on Formartine Road in Tillydrone. Cruyff Court Willie Millar will be the third of its kind in Aberdeen and the fourth in the whole of Scotland.



TORRY MEMORIES & HERITAGE SOCIETY



At our meeting on 28th September 2022, we had a small party to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the official opening of our 1940's/1950's Memory Room which took place on 25th September 2017. The room was opened by the Dowager Duchess of Hamilton.

'How did you manage that?', I hear you asking. Well, there is an interesting little story about how it happened. We had been discussing who we might ask to do the opening without really coming up with someone.

Around the same time, I had posted a Torry Primary School photo with very vague information on our Facebook page to see what responses we might get. Almost by

return we got the name of the school (Walker Road Primary), the year of the photo, (1955) and the names of some of the pupils. One of the names was certainly a surprise. The pupil's name was Kathleen Dutch, who we were reliably informed, went on in later life to marry the Duke of Hamilton.

Right away, we thought this is who we will try to get to do the opening. Nothing ventured nothing gained. After a bit of research, we found a possible contact address. So, we sent of a letter, with our fingers crossed.

We eventually received a very positive reply from the Dowager Duchess saying she would be more than delighted to carry out the

opening. We were wondering about accommodation, but that wasn't a concern as she had family in Cults, and she would stay with them while she was in the area.

We had one or two of her old classmates at the event who she had fun catching up with. She also spent some time putting names to some of the pupils on some Walker Road Primary school photos we had in our collection. She also gifted us with her sister Margaret's Dux medal which she won at Torry Junior Secondary school in 1950.

We have included 2 photos of the Duchess on the opening on the 25th of September 2017.

Pat Robertson





TULLOS COMMUNITY GARDEN



It always puts a smile on my face when community projects bring people together and with a fortunate run of happy stances and as they usually do with Shmu that's exactly what happened with the Tullos Community Wildlife Garden site.

While working on another local community project I received a lovely message with a solution to a problem I was faced with and was filled with excitement when I headed up to the Tullos community gardens to be met with..... dismay!

Yes, there was lots of produce, fresh fruit and vegetables, cabbages bigger than your head and rhubarb almost as tall as me (I'm very short), all very edible and very much already eaten by the bugs that came before me. A thriving magpie family, had also firmly set up home in Tullos Community Gardens on an all-inclusive basis!!!

And where do all those weeds start? And what exactly has happened to our local community gardens? The Tullos Community Wildlife Garden site was set up in 2018 as part of a communities Torry project. Eight planters were built, four of them with disabled access from the paths that come right into the garden to grow vegetables, some small fruit bushes

alongside potatoes, carrots, onions and herbs. These are all free for everyone to use. Bug mansions and bird houses were built to give a new habitat to small animals and insects, as well as some pretty cool wall art and a nifty wee mud kitchen for the kids to play with.

Sadly, due to the last few years the site has gone mainly unused and had been left to grow wild with minimal human intervention but now the time has come to change that.

A few calls, texts and emails later, several active volunteers commenced a swift community clean up on Tullos Community Gardens. With a successful gardening weekend that took place on the first weekend of October. It's been lovely to see the local green space with its wonderfully diverse ecosystem taking shape again with an ongoing project in our local community that people have ownership over.

Tullos community gardens are still looking for volunteers for painting, planting, weeding & growing. If you'd like to be part of what's happening, please get in touch via the Facebook page at Tullos Community Garden.

Natalie Hood

Summer in retrospective

What a hot and dry summer we have left behind us again! It held well until the middle of September or so, giving finally space for the autumn with its beautiful colours.

Cultivate Aberdeen celebrated summer by inviting the community to their St. Fitticks' Edible Garden site in Torry for their Open Day as part of the second Community Garden Festival, organised by Granite City Good Food. Giving the opportunity to see around, have a chat and engage with the various activities, while learning more about opportunities on local food growing.

We couldn't have wished a brighter day! Lucy from Cfine <https://www.cfine.org/> helped to welcome the arrivals with refreshments and managed the plant swap with the donated plants and seeds.

The children were very excited and couldn't wait to crack on with the potato harvesting, so much so, that Bob from One Seed Forward seemed to find it hard to keep up! The sudden excitement was followed with some

relaxing yoga exercises by Kim from KimYoga4U, while the children kept busy with bug hunting, with a small reward upon completion. The Melting Pot Collective, who again, kindly provided music for us, was delighted to see that some of the audience joined in to play alongside them.

Earlier this summer Vital Energi approached us offering their help and we agreed in the installation of two waterbutts that should help us getting through easier the dry spells. The two 1m3 water containers are now in place and Cultivate Aberdeen is thankful for their help and professionalism.

Other offerings include tree donations, a compost bin and a hebe plant, which were donated. We also recieved a silver birch, cherry, rowan and ash tree. We planted them to their new location with the help of our volunteers for the day Allison and Rory. Allison also brought some spirea, which we planted alongside the flower bed at the entrance to provide some shade for the flowers

and habitat for wildlife. We are expecting some daffodil and muscarii bulbs from Aberdeen City Council in the coming weeks, we are hoping to plant in the October holidays to add some new spring colour to our flower bed.

With the weather turning cooler and wetter, most of the growing season is over we are focusing on tidying up the garden and prepare for the winter. Why don't you come along and give us a hand?

Our sessions can be found on our website www.cultivateaberdein.co.uk/ and on social media www.facebook.com/cultivateABDN.

Please contact us with your ideas or concerns on info@cultivateaberdein.co.uk.

Websites:

www.granitecitygoodfood.org
www.oneseedforward.co.uk/
www.facebook.com/KimYoga4U/
www.facebook.com/TMPCollective
www.cfine.org/
www.vitalenergi.co.uk



Elected Officials

Audrey Nicoll MSP

At the time of writing we have not long finished the mourning period for Her Majesty The Queen. For most of us, the Queen was an ever-present figure throughout our lifetimes, it is truly the end of an era.

At Holyrood, much of our time has been spent discussing the cost-of-living crisis and the impact it is having on households and businesses. In Torry alone, the much-loved Royal Crown was forced to close, although since reopened and Nom Nom Fudge – just around the corner from my office – had to close its shop and run an online-only service. Energy bills have been crippling for local businesses.

Constituents have also been in touch with me worried about the rising energy costs. My team and I have delivered energy information leaflets to pockets of Torry just in case they find them helpful.

Although the Scottish Parliament cannot legislate on issues like energy, which is reserved to Westminster, it can take action on housing and the Scottish Government has confirmed a freeze on rents until at least March 2023. There is also a moratorium on evictions. These steps will ensure vulnerable people have a guaranteed roof over their heads throughout the winter.

As convener of the Criminal Justice Committee, I have also been busy drafting new fireworks legislation which has passed in Parliament. In the wrong hands, fireworks have caused misery for communities, and I am confident that the new regulations will ensure they can be enjoyed both safely and responsibly.

As always, my staff and I are more than happy to be of assistance with any issues you may have. I can be reached by calling **01224 876743**, or by email: **audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot**

Cllr Kuszniir

Update from the Town House

I am now holding face-to-face surgeries in Torry and Ferryhill during alternative months during school term time.

They will be held at Tullos School at 11am on the 19th November 2022, 21st January 2023, 18th March 2023 and 17th June 2023.

I have often found that the intervention of a Councillor can help progress an issue that a constituent has been struggling with for a long while. So, do not hesitate to get in touch by phone or email.

It was fantastic to attend the official opening of The Bridge Centre. A building brought back to life for the benefit of

the community. Not only are there after school classes being held by Touch of Love but The Grampian Community Law Centre will be on hand to assist with legal problems. They are also working out of Torry Medical Practice one day of a week. I wish them well in delivering for our communities.



Cllr Christian Allard

The elected members of the Council with the people of Aberdeen paid their final respect to Queen Elisabeth, it was a moving and historic day, and I was delighted to be with so many families at Duthie Park. The pictures of a sunny and bonny Aberdeen were broadcasted live across the world.

It has been a challenging year and will continue to be so for families and businesses facing the huge spike in energy bills. Martin Tang who has run the much-loved Royal Crown Chinese takeaway on Crombie Road for decades, is leading the campaign for the UK government and energy companies to find a solution. If you need support, please contact us like Martin did. Council officers are working hard to source any advice on emergency help. I will be convening the Council's new Anti-Poverty and Inequality committee to respond to the cost-of-living crisis in Aberdeen.

Our Member of the Scottish Parliament, Audrey Nicoll, now chairs the Nigg Waste Water Treatment

Works Liaison Group and we visited the plant once again. Because of the pandemic, it had been a while, and I am reassured that the operation is now entirely run by Scottish Water making sure that investment is there to reduce their carbon footprint and the smell too. It was reported to us that complaints are mainly coming from visitors and not from residents. It is important to report any unpleasant odours you experience from the site by calling 0800 80 70 60.

We had visitors coming to St Fittick's Park during the summer and they enquired where the smell was coming from. In September, the Independent Scottish Government Reporter has published her recommendations for St Fittick's and Doonies Farm. Those recommendations will be tested at our planning committee, if and when applications come regarding these two locations. Both sites are parts of a much bigger area where the Energy Transition Zone will be across the railway line in the industrial estate. The Reporter recognised the need

to protect our communities and our environment, something that we, as a council group, recognised from the outset back in March 2020.

Out of the old Phoenix building, the new Bridge Centre was officially opened by our new Lord Provost, David Cameron. I am delighted to write that we have brought another disused building in Torry back to life serving the community, I took the opportunity to meet all the new service providers. A great place opened to all, the young and the less young with advice and support on addiction, personal finance, and legal matters. A great place for a blether, a wee cup and a warmup.

Stay safe and stay warm everyone

Christian

Christian Allard

Elected Councillor for Torry and Ferryhill

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Adult Services

The Adult Services team are delighted to hear that one of our participants has won a Koestler Bronze Award for a music video produced during his film sessions at HMP Grampian.

The track 'Living with Time' features hard-hitting lyrics tackling the complex background to one man's offending and the impact of a lengthy prison sentence. The video includes an honest and charismatic delivery from our participant, who despite being an experienced poet had never performed on camera.

Only 11 other entries from across the UK received recognition in the Performance category with even fewer achieving one of the coveted top prizes.

Koestler Arts is the UK's best-known prison arts charity, encouraging people in the criminal justice system to change their lives by participating in the arts. The Koestler Awards have been running for 60 years and each year attract 3,500 entries. Alongside recognition, winners can receive feedback and sell their artwork.

Challenge Poverty Week

Challenge Poverty Week took place between the 3rd and the 9th of November.

shmu's campaign was a collaborative effort with Cfine, ACVO and Abernecessities. Each organisation made a short film, highlighting how low income and access to fair pay, high cost of living, and lack of access to help and services that people need, are affecting thousands of local households across the city.

The films were then screened at the Belmont Cinema on Monday the 3rd Of October, kicking off Challenge Poverty Week.

Followed by an open discussion, bringing third sector organisations and community members together to discuss what more we can do together to challenge poverty in the region.

We were also delighted here at shmu to use our various platforms from social media to community magazines to showcase vital information and local organisations, doing important work to challenge poverty.

You can view each of the films and STV's coverage of the event at <https://acvo.org.uk/cpw-22/>



When Nature Calls, there's a world to save – and Torry can lead the way

It was a dry summer in the Northeast, followed by some torrential rain storms as the change of season approached. While we welcomed the warm, sunny weather, global weather events continue to remind us that climate change is here to stay.

We know it is bringing more frequent intense downpours than Scotland has seen in the past – and Torry has been no exception. Huge volumes of water rapidly cascade into drains and sewers - too much for Scotland's largely Victorian built infrastructure to cope. And it's not just the weather that has changed. In the past – just a generation or two ago - we didn't use any modern convenience products like wet wipes, disposable razors, period products and even disposable nappies. Sadly, all this stuff can often end up being flushed when it's served its purpose. A flash in the pan causes a flash flood later.

As sewers become overwhelmed, household waste products – wipes, sanitary items, nappies – can escape into our rivers and end up on our beaches. Not just unpleasant, this is harmful to the environment and the wildlife we share it with. Especially when so many of these products – including wet wipes – contain plastic. Never to biodegrade, or at least not in our lifetimes.

It may sound bleak – but there is something we can all do. The things we use in the bathroom just need to be binned. By only flushing pee, poo and paper – the 3 p's – we immediately can help reduce pressure on the sewer network. And in turn, minimise unpleasant blockages downstream and nasty microplastics entering our marine life and food chains.

In the kitchen too, cooled fats, oils, grease – including milk, soup, food bits – should go in the bin or better still be recycled. Saving oil in a jar to use again can save money too. Kitchen waste adds to blockages, congealing together with bathroom plastics – yeuch!

Scottish Water has put together some great hints and tips that everyone can use in their homes to protect nature and the environment. It's all part of our nationwide Nature Calls campaign which you might see or hear on the airwaves this autumn and beyond.

It's easy to think 'what difference will my one household make' but when 5000 households think and do the same, we really do make a difference. Scottish Water currently clears 36,000 blockages a year, most caused by wet wipes – and many impacting on our customers, communities and the local environment.

Together, we know we can make a positive change. For some specific hints and tips and to support our campaign, visit www.JoinTheWave.scot.

Seeing Nigg up close again

While we see the effects of climate change in the weather, our Waste Water Treatment Works at Nigg is playing a trail-blazing role in reducing carbon emissions by generating more and more of its own renewable power. You can find out more at www.scottishwater.co.uk/Nigg.

It was great last month to welcome our local stakeholder group back to the site for a visit after a long period where meetings have been confined to the virtual.

An enduring aspect of the group's work remains to review the WWTW's odour performance. Our team at the site works hard to minimise unpleasant odours, but all odour reports are investigated and play a part in our efforts to improve. We're grateful to the Torry Vision team for adding SEPA's reporting hotline - **0800 80 70 60** – to the directory so you can always find it there if you need it.

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

SEPA Odour Reporting Hotline - 0800 80 70 60

(for reporting odours believed to be linked to Nigg Waste Water Treatment Works)

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

Aberdeen Carers Support Service -

01224 914036

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at CFINE 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

Penumbra First Reponse 0800 234 3695

Torry Medical Practice

8am – 6pm

Contact: 0345 337 9977

Holburn Medical Practice

01224 400800

Local Councillors

Councillor Lee Fairfull

01224 346652, lfairfull@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Christian Allard

01224 346642, callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Micheal Kusznir

01224 346653, mkusznir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Simon Watson

01224 346654, simwatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Audrey Nicoll MSP

audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot

Stephen Flynn MP

01224 213114, stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.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