

## **Item 5 D – Stonehaven Conservation Area Review by Planning Aid Scotland**

To: Cllr Wendy Agnew <[cldr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.w.agnew@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)>

NOTE

~for~

Councillor Wendy Agnew

~in respect of~

Planning Aid (Scotland)

I am asked to explain Planning Aid Scotland. The genesis of Planning Aid was in the 1970s and it developed further throughout the 1980s and 1990s to provide a free impartial confidential urban planning and environmental advice service to individuals and community groups who cannot afford to consult or pay for professional services. This is currently achieved through a number of organisations throughout the UK such as Planning Aid Scotland and Planning Aid England,

Planning Aid Scotland –current involvement. All Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)

(Scotland) Act 1997, to review Conservation Areas and their boundaries to formulate and publish proposals for their preservation and enhancement.

As part of their statutory duty to review existing conservation areas, Aberdeenshire Council has asked Planning Aid Scotland for assistance and, as part of ‘Stonehaven, Past, Present, Future’, Planning Aid Scotland is organising a series of events to consult people about the area.

A consultation event is to be held from 2pm to 7pm, Thursday 20 March in Stonehaven Town Hall concerning the existing Stonehaven Conservation Area.

Two Options have been suggested; a) one Conservation Area – Stonehaven Old Town; b) split existing Conservation Area into two Areas – Stonehaven Old Town and Stonehaven New Town.

The event referred to is an example of where the views of the local people are important and taken into account in formulating proposals which should eventually be published.

Meaningful and positive engagement on the part of local people in the consultation process can in turn have a positive influence in the outcome of the review.

John A.A. Agnew

Town and Country Planning Agent 12 February 2025.nd.