

4 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.1 - GREEN x RED

Firstly it must be stated that **Johnston Gardens is a beautiful** and peaceful haven at all times of the year. Please keep it as wonderful as it is. However the growing practice of leaving various items around the **remembrance stone** plus other oddments hanging from the trees nearby is unsettling for some and not in keeping with the theme of remembrance for the men who were lost. It would seem a good idea to restrict the items placed around the remembrance stone.

4.2 - RED

Duthie and Hazlehead Parks once were and still can be a huge asset to the people of Aberdeen and its tourists, but unfortunately parts have been neglected. NO cafe at either park, although there is a Kiosk at Hazlehead and we hope to see the cafe there will reopen soon. Even the coffee machine at Duthie Park supposedly giving some refreshments to visitors often does not work. We look forward to the café at the Duthie Park being reopened as soon as possible. The **toilets at Hazlehead are a disgrace** and plans to replace these toilets and improve the children's animal pet area cannot happen soon enough. It is very unfortunate that the **excellent paths** created at the edge of the playing fields at Hazlehead have already been **badly damaged** to the extent parts are unusable. If, as it is assumed, this damage has been caused by **horses** it suggests that paths should be designated for the use by certain categories whether it be bikes or people or horses and the paths built appropriately for the use of that category.

4.3 - RED

Its very sad to see **part of the Winter Garden in Duthie Park closed** to visitors for lack of funds, even though, it is understood, a large bequest was made specifically to support the building.

4.4 - RED

Fairly large sums of money have been spent on an **excellent adventure playground** at Duthie Park as well as other improvements but it seems surprisingly short sighted not to have built **toilets at the playground**. This is particularly disappointing to bus loads of children who arrive from out of town to enjoy the new facilities.

4.5 - RED

Although signs suggest that **dogs are not allowed on the central parts of the beach** this does not seem to have been conveyed to the dogs or their owners. Could bigger signs at least or even an appearance by an enforcement officer not be arranged to try and keep the central area clear of dogs.

4.6 - RED

Dogs are also often nuisance in Duthie Park with not only the mess they leave but the hazard they present to young children is frequently evident. This is true of Hazlehead Park as well but not quite so noticeable. Some restrictions should be enforced on dogs in these public areas so that relaxed freedom of access is available to children and adults of all ages.

4.7 - RED

Again signs or markings on the pavements at the beach to **separate cyclists and pedestrians** would be helpful.

1. TRANSPORT

1.1 Road Safety Issues

1.1.1 - BLUE

Residents in the Harlaw area (and probably others) find the **restricted view** (caused by bushes) and lane layout for the **roundabout** at the junction of Queens Road and Anderson Drive **dangerous**.

1.1.2 - BLUE

Several **Pedestrian Crossings** in the Community Council area are **unsafe** to use as cars often speed through the crossings when they are green for **pedestrians**. In particular the crossing on **Anderson Drive** south of the roundabout with Queens Road is dangerous as not only do cars speed through the lights against them but because of the bushes on the roundabout pedestrians (and cars) are blocked from viewing one another especially if walkers are positioned in the middle island.

1.2 Parking

1.2.1 - BLUE

Parking round **Rubislaw Hill** is a problem, in particular people in **Carnegie Cres** wish they had voted for the controlled parking suggestions, as they have significant difficulties now.

1.2.2 - BLUE

Parking close to **Harlaw playing fields** now becoming a problem on Saturdays when games are taking place in the fields

1.2.3 - RED

If the new buildings being considered for **Rubislaw Hill** go forward with the limited parking suggested the parking and **traffic problems** already evident will be very much worse.

1.2.4 - BLUE

Despite several attempts at stopping the practice, parking by **parents at St Joseph and Albyn School** remains a problem. It is helpful that the Police take an interest in traffic problems on Queens Road but it is found that their endeavours only have a temporary beneficial affect.

1.2.5 - BLUE

Despite several attempts to resolve the parking (and other) difficulties for residents in the **Osborne Place and Blenheim Lane** area the residents have still many problems to live with.

1.3 Walking and Cycling

1.3.1 - BLUE

Core Paths are a great idea BUT we would like to see more **differentiation between pedestrians and cyclists**, at least a prominent clear line AND more notices reminding cyclists to warn pedestrians they are about to pass.

1.3.2 - RED

Residents would like to see more information regarding the **progress** being made on the development of the **core paths** and targets being set for implementation. We understand

2. HOUSING and BUSINESS

2.1 - RED & BLUE

General residential **planning regulations** for the area are too lax and ill defined and allow structures which are completely out of keeping with the surroundings houses. Even when plans are turned down by the Planning Dept., builders continue to ignore the agreed structure plans and build what they want. When neighbours protest, the builders are allowed to continue. This has even happened after the plans are put before the planning committee and in theory the builders are limited to the initial restricted structure.

2.2 - RED

As stated elsewhere the businesses on Rubislaw Hill continue to expand and cause serious parking and traffic problems to residents in the area. Residents are concerned traffic problems can only get much worse as more offices and houses are built on and near the road out to Westhill. This must have a severe impact on **Queens Road traffic**.

3. ARCHITECTURE and URBAN DESIGN etc

3.1

Residents in the **Queens Cross** area are concerned by the **flooding** which has taken place here in the winter months. It is understood there is ongoing investigation of the cause.

3.2

Taking into account the general **Union Street area and its decline**, it is felt that the new plans for the old **Capital Cinema and the Bells Hotel** are out of keeping with any historical or even modern concept of what could improve the Union Street environment. The **height** of these proposed buildings is worrying. It is noted that the photos displayed in the old Bruce Miller shop window are taken at very advantageous angles which seem deliberately to hide the impact the new high constructions will have.

3.3

Queens Cross Community Council strongly object to the new plans for the Broad Street "plaza" on the basis that we feel it will actually make matters worse for the overall concept of keeping the central parts of Aberdeen and Union Street vibrant. The new plans will draw people away from Union Street and cause even greater traffic difficulties. **We suggest** that the new plans for the Broad Street area should encompass an **open area** for people to walk and sit around with **Provost Skene's House** being a feature and viewed clearly from the Broad Street and Marischal College area. Coffee kiosks might be within this area. We are very interested to hear what the **financial implications** are for the Aberdeen City Council present proposals.

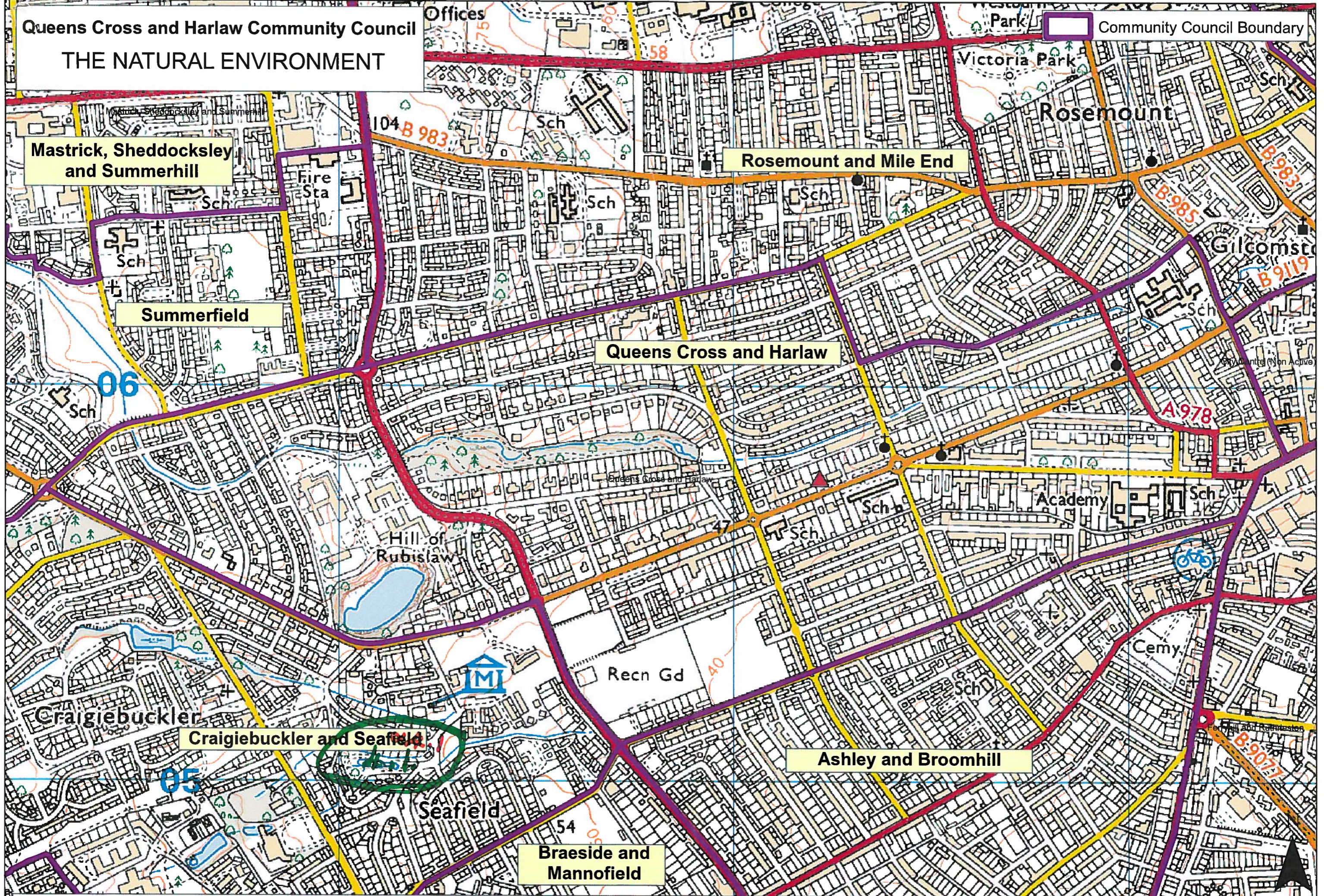
3.4

Members of the Community Council also recall that the **Marischal College quadrangle** was supposed to be open and easily accessible to the public, but this does not seem to have happened.

3.5

We believe the **pedestrianisation of part of Union Street** which would be a bad idea, not only from the traffic (particularly buses) perspective but also it has been suggested that it could be counterproductive for keeping Union Street "alive".

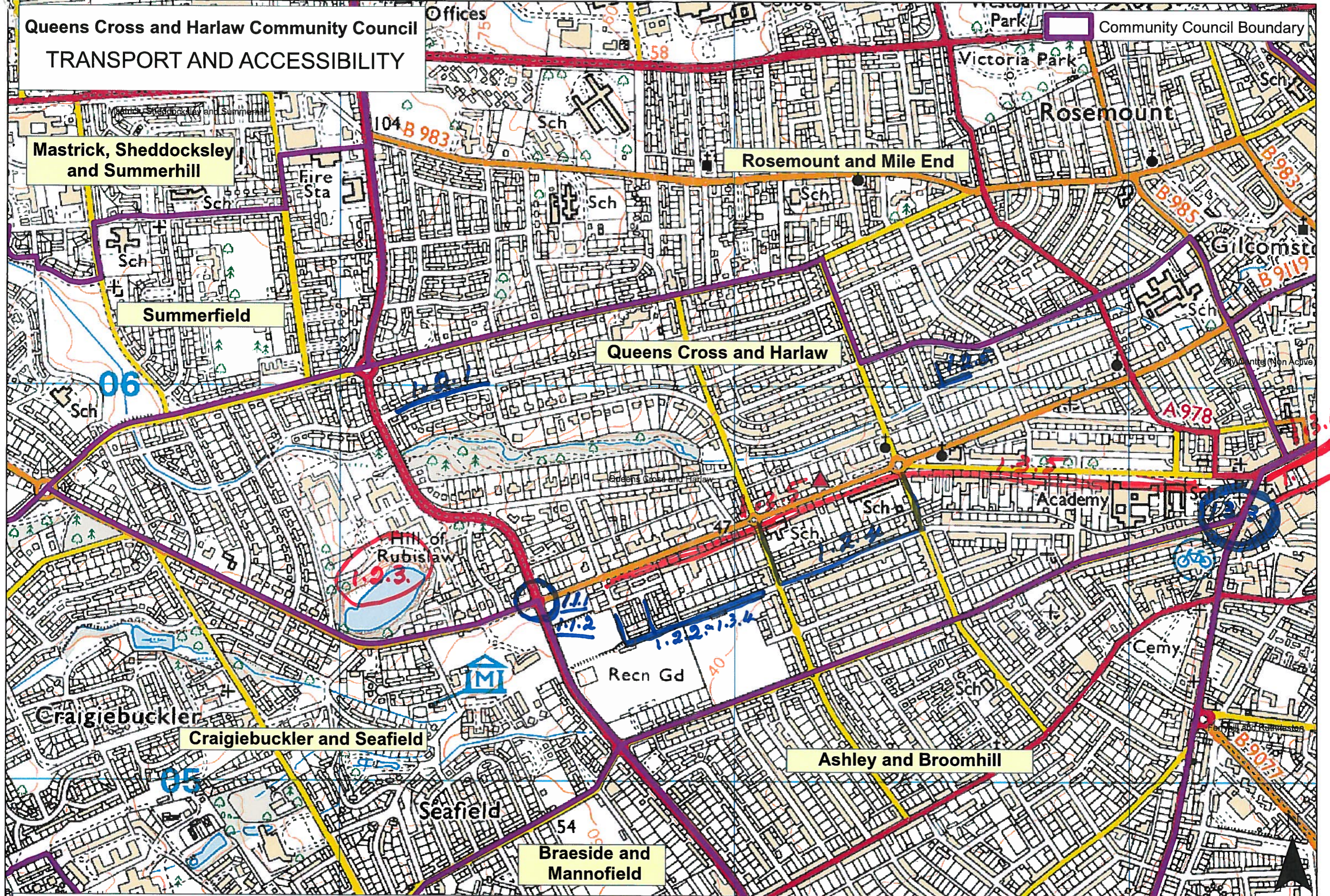
Queens Cross and Harlaw Community Council
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



4.2, 4.3 4.4 4.6 - DUNNIE PARK & HARLEHEAD

4.5 4.7 - BEACH

Queens Cross and Harlaw Community Council
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

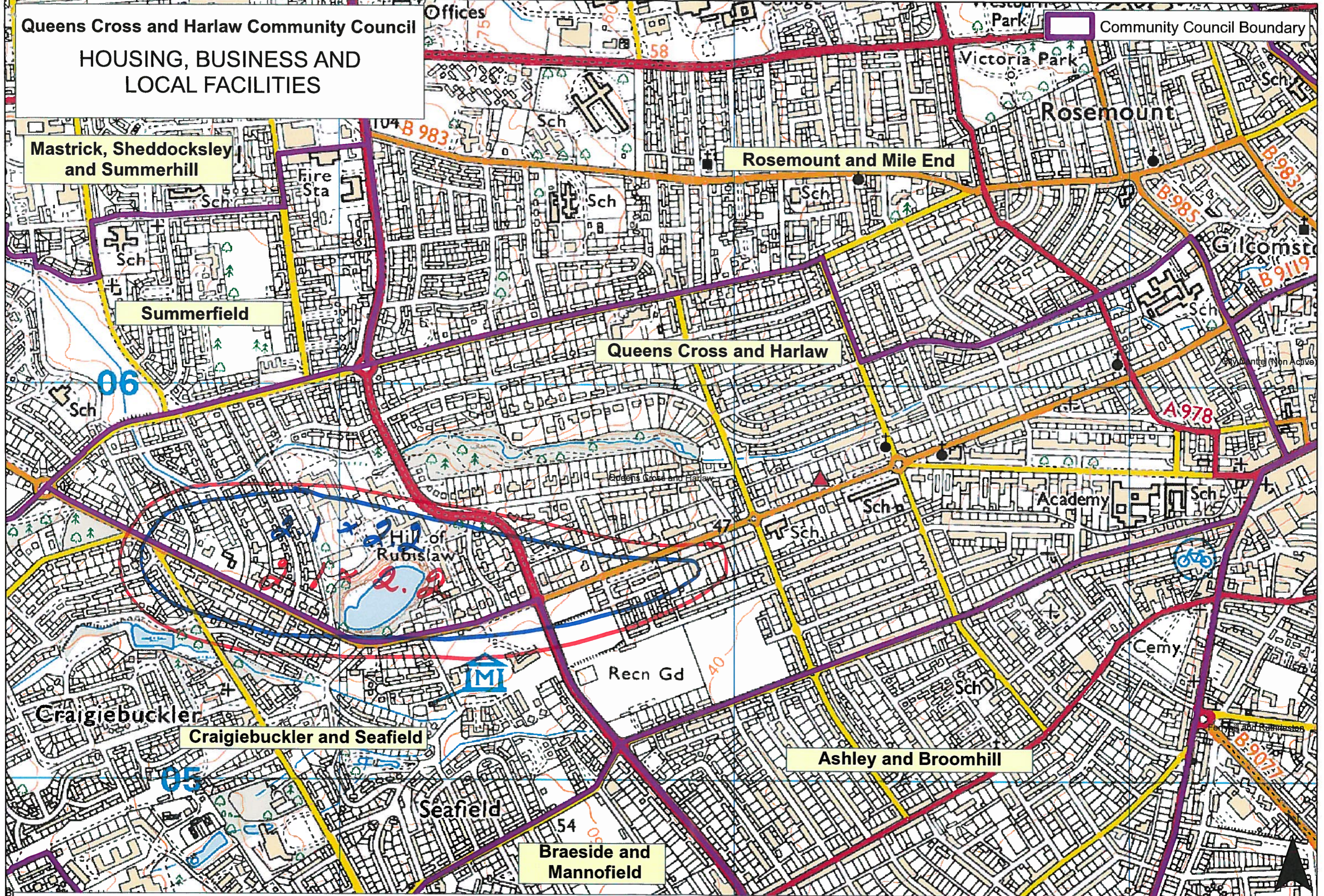


Scale: 1:8000 @ A3

(C) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Aberdeen City Council - 100023401 (2013)

ALSO 1.3.1. CORE PATHS DIFFERENTIATE 1.3.2 - CORE PATHS PLAN + BUS AVAILABILITY 1.4.1.

Queens Cross and Harlaw Community Council
HOUSING, BUSINESS AND
LOCAL FACILITIES

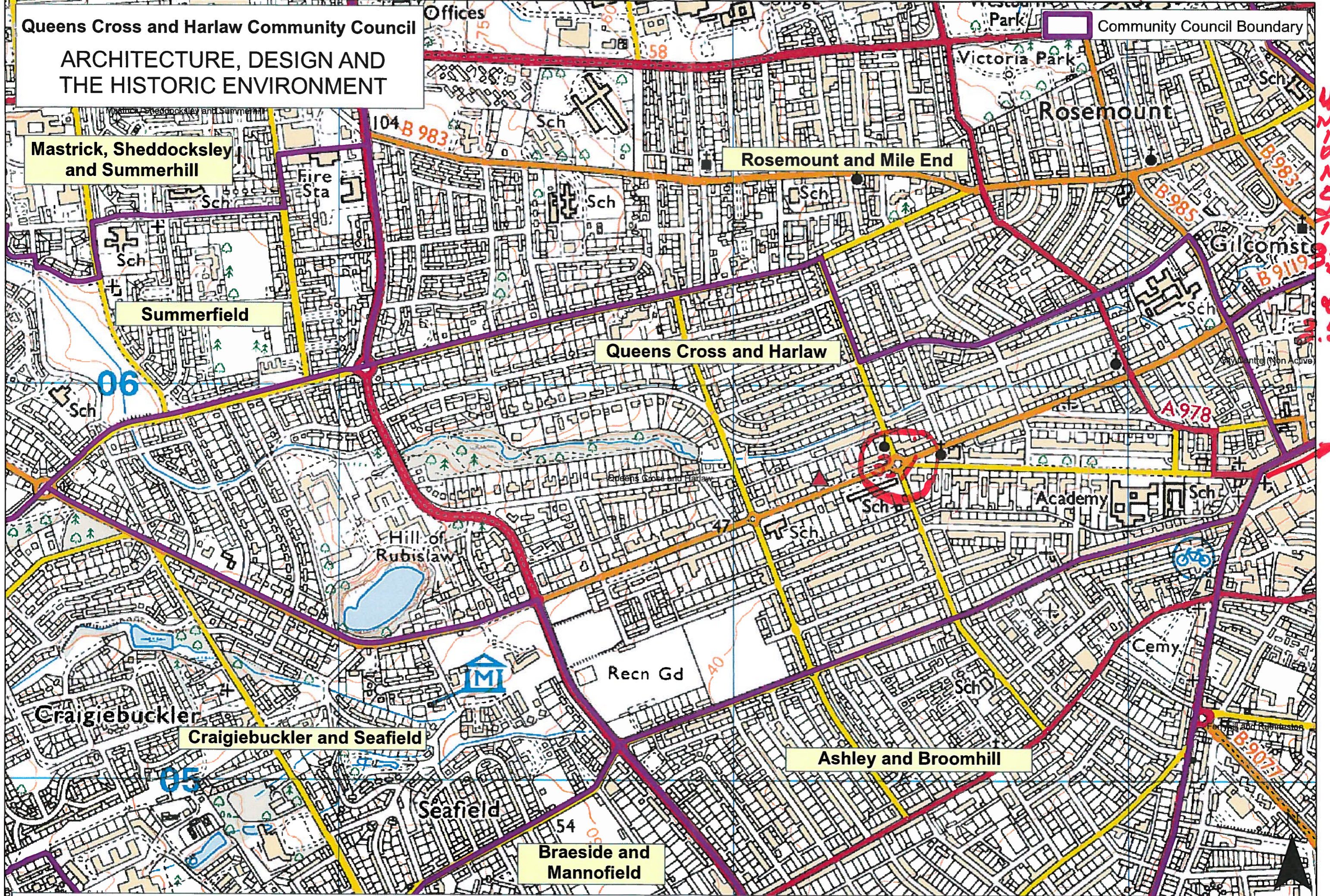


Scale: 1:8000 @ A3

(C) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Aberdeen City Council - 100023401 (2013)

2.1 RED - BLUE - CLARIFY & IMPLEMENT PLANNING REGULATIONS - 2.1.

Queens Cross and Harlaw Community Council
ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND
THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT



24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

Scale: 1:8000 @ A3

(C) Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Aberdeen City Council - 100023401 (2013)

MARISCHAL COL. QUAD 3.4 BROAD ST 3.3.

Queen's Cross : Likes



Johnston Gardens

Queen's Cross : Disikes



Personal items left at Remembrance Stone



Dogs on the beach



Pedestrian Crossings on Anderson Drive



Dogs on the beach

Queen's Cross : Disikes



Guardrail and temporary bollards on Anderson Drive



Pedestrian Crossings on Queen's Road



Personal items left on tree near Remembrance Stone

Queen's Cross : Disikes



'Car Port' development



Traffic on Queen's Road Roundabout



Personal items left at Remembrance Stone