



To whom it may concern,

In response to Aberdeen City Council's consultation, please find below in my opinion 9 positives and 9 negatives about Aberdeen City and Old Aberdeen.

Things I like about Aberdeen and my area (Old Aberdeen).	Things I don't like or would like to see changed.
Old Aberdeen is relatively quiet and like stepping into a village within town. Footdee has a similar feel. I love it.	A slightly cheaper parking permit option for residents. Maybe have a separate rate for those who don't live in the area but want to park there.
Old Aberdeen seems to have a "community" feel.	There is often a lot of litter at Donmouth beach. Maybe regular community beach cleans; say every 2 weeks; would be an idea to encourage a greater community feel and clean up the mess.
The old granite buildings are beautiful to observe.	Greater access to community swimming pools. I regularly used Linksfield swimming pool before it closed and the nearest similar pools are in Northfield or Bridge of Don. I feel there should be another community pool in the centre of town; don't most cities have a swimming pool right in the centre of town? Maybe that is what could be built at the old Council buildings on Broad St.
The one way system on Dunbar St and Don St work well.	I don't like that access to High St. has been restricted to buses and taxis only. As a driver and living on Dunbar St. it would be much more convenient to cut through from University Road, through High Street to St. Machar drive. Would there be an option of making it access only for residents in the area? Maybe having a pass in the car to trigger the traffic lights?
The bus lane system works brilliantly and on occasion during bus lane operation times I have opted for the bus (or taxi) as I know that will get me home quicker than the car.	What I don't like about the bus lane on King Street heading North, as you approach St. Machar Drive roundabout the bus lane ends very close to the roundabout. When I am driving and want to turn left to get onto St. Machar Drive so as to get to Dunbar St. I have to wait until the end of the road to get into the left lane so as to turn left. I feel for those

	<p>wanting to turn left the bus lane should end slightly sooner, maybe about where the camera is now, so that driver's can get into the correct lane sooner and avoid the congestion of those simply going straight over the roundabout towards Bridge of Don. .</p>
<p>Seaton Park and the Botanical Gardens are a beautiful "escape". So are Union Terrace Gardens and Duthie Park.</p>	<p>A few more green spaces wouldn't go a miss.</p>
<p>The number 1 and 2 First bus service run well. I like the bus stops that tell you how long it will be until the bus arrives; that often helps me decide whether it would be worth walking to the next bus stop.</p>	<p>It would be good if the First bus number 20 went to Union St. This bus service could do with being more regular I think; I always feel pushed to get the 1 or 2 into town.</p>
<p>As a student, the student day ticket for the First bus service has been brilliant and really allowed me to explore the city and make full use of the bus service for my part-time job which is all over the city.</p>	<p>However, it would be good if there was a student "single" option. £2 to get from St. Machar Drive to Castlegate seems a little extortionate! I am not looking forward to not being a student anymore and having to pay over £4 for a day ticket. My part-time job won't increase my wage once I finish Uni in a couple of weeks and yet I will then have to pay much more to get the bus.</p>
<p>Aberdeen in general feels like a community. Its population isn't too big that I am often bumping into people I know from various things, at the same time there are plenty of new people to meet and chance to "escape into the crowd".</p>	<p>There is NOT enough affordable housing for students or recent graduates/those on lower incomes. Running a search on Rightmove.co.uk right now for flats/houses in Aberdeen City for under £800 only brings in 36 results. In my experience of going for flat viewings I found several to be <i>group</i> viewings and it is the first to call the agent and transfer the money or the first to get to the agency office and place the deposit that gets the flat; this just seems a ridiculous set up. Getting the property we are in now felt a real struggle to "beat" the others in the race. We managed to transfer the money via phone before another viewee who was doing the same thing at the same time; the difference must have only been 10 seconds because she was giving her card details the same time as us. We were lucky, but what about the other 4 couples on the viewing (and others) who had to continue the race with ever limiting availability. I believe the University of Aberdeen has 13,000 students (including</p>

	<p>part-timers). I don't know what the amount is at Robert Gordon University but that means there needs to be a drastic increase in Landlord's and those willing to rent out properties. I graduate this year and I am most likely going to have to move back in with my parents in England as there simply is not the option of properties to rent here in Aberdeen affordably. My current job on full-time hours would only bring in around £600 (gross) a month. My half of the rent is £400, with bills around £500 per month. This would not leave me enough money to buy food each week and get the bus to work. So I will most likely have to sacrifice my part-time job (which I enjoy) to move back in with my parents and be unemployed in another part of the UK. Unfortunately this is how things are just now, but it feels a shame as I would like to stay in Aberdeen. Maybe when the economy and housing picks up I will be able to return.</p>
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If you would like me to develop on any of these points or you would like to ask me further questions, please feel free to get in touch. My contact details can be found at the top of this letter.

Regards,



Elizabeth Bennett