



“A new management plan for Hazelhead Park was devised with Aberdeen City Council to promote the long term prospects of red squirrels living in the park”

Aberdeen City Council want
to re-zone the Grove
Nursery Hazlehead from:
“Sporting / Recreational” to:
“Industrial”

We say NO!



*Siting the proposed
recycling centre at
the Grove Nursery is
wholly inappropriate*

Let's see why...?

Did you know that Aberdeen City Council
has just adopted its new Nature
Conservation Strategy for the City of
Aberdeen...?

With an aim to:

*“To conserve Aberdeen City’s natural
heritage for the benefit of our biodiversity,
citizens and visitors, for current and future
generations”*

*... this beautifully
crafted document
speaks for itself...*

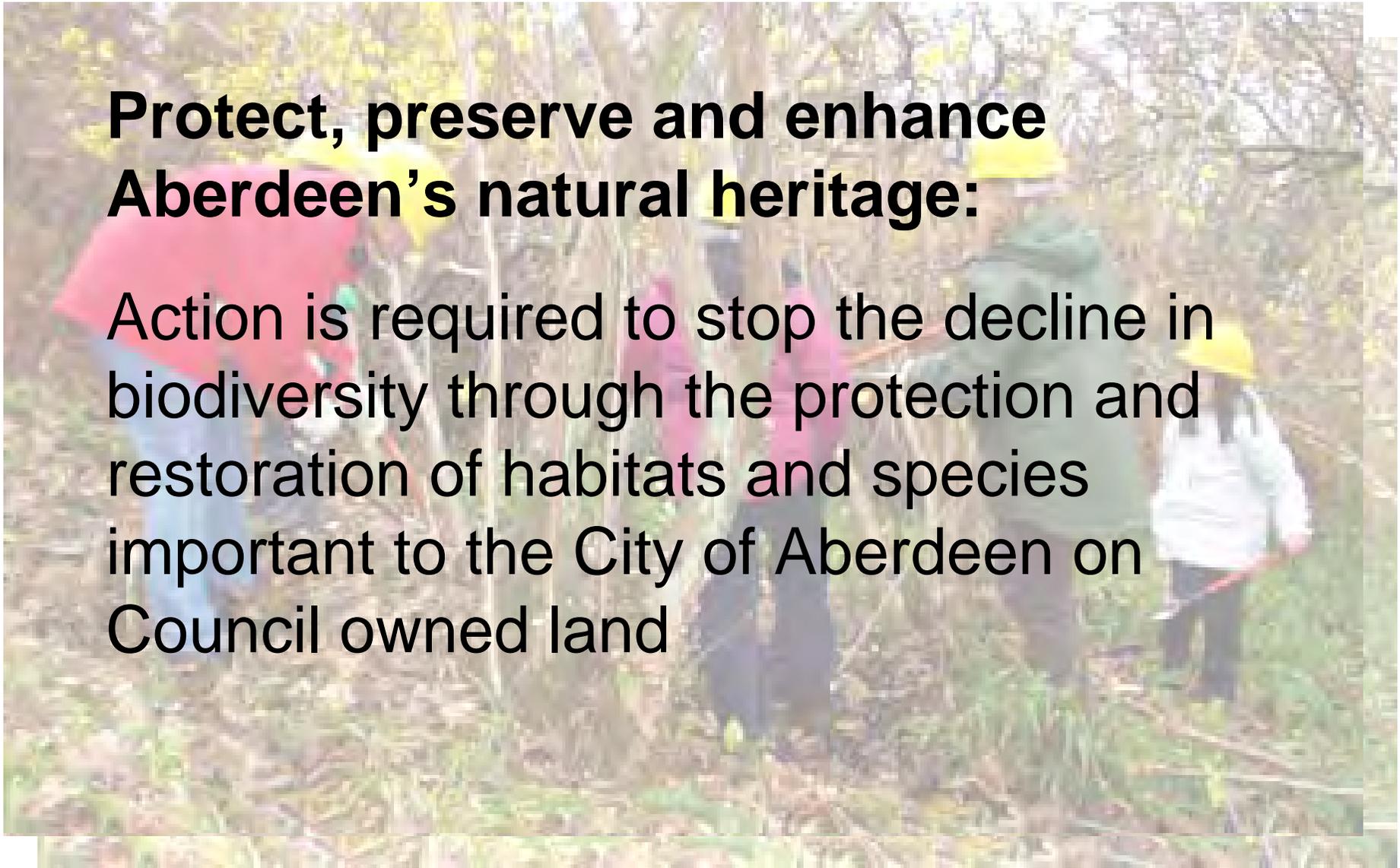


The Aberdeen City Council
Nature Conservation Strategy
2010-2015

Our Objectives (1)...

**Protect, preserve and enhance
Aberdeen's natural heritage:**

Action is required to stop the decline in biodiversity through the protection and restoration of habitats and species important to the City of Aberdeen on Council owned land



Our Objectives (2)...

Sustainably manage Aberdeen's natural heritage:

The Council needs to plan and manage the use of its own land in a way that assists in reversing the decline in biodiversity. The Council should also take up opportunities to encourage private land owners to do the same

Our Objectives (3)...

Involve communities in caring for Aberdeen's natural heritage:

To make people aware of the importance and benefits of nature conservation, the Council needs to engage with everyone and get them involved at a local level

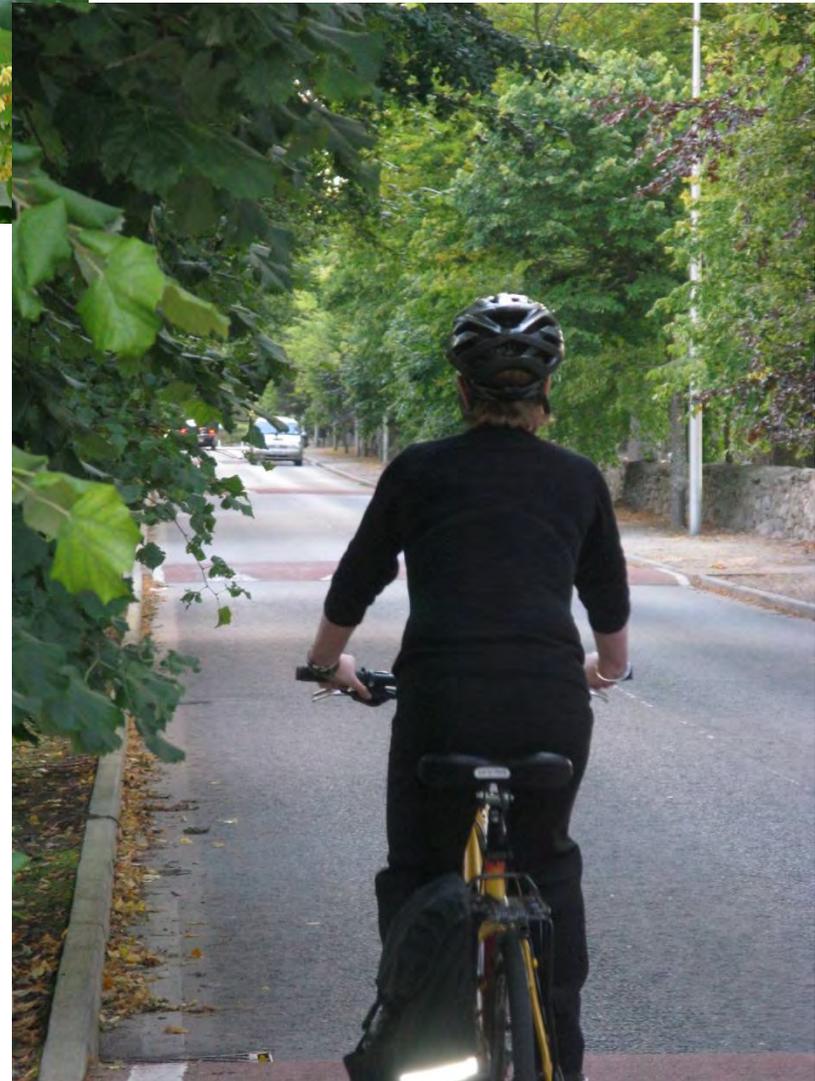
Our Objectives (4)...

Promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Aberdeen's natural heritage:

Being informed will improve knowledge and enhance people's experience of nature while at the same time help promote awareness and respect for the City's natural heritage



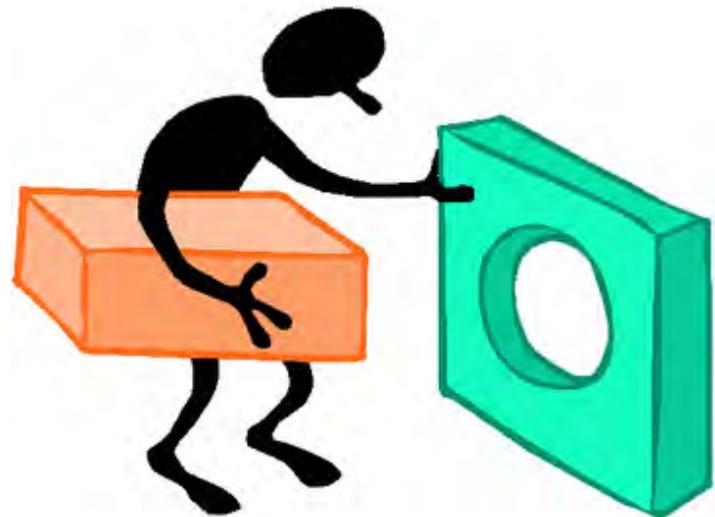
*“I was simply cycling up
Hazlehead Avenue the
other morning, being
gently intoxicated by
the fragrance of the
flowering limes....
.... just thinking....
I wish this could last....
forever....”*



Ever wondered what an oxymoron was ...?

“This year, 2010, is officially the International Year of Biodiversity; a time when the importance of life on earth and the value of biodiversity for our lives are being celebrated. It is, therefore, fitting that Aberdeen City Council has just adopted its new Nature Conservation Strategy for the City of Aberdeen” [Councillor Aileen Malone Nature Conservation Strategy 2010 – 2015]

“...the northwest corner of the Grove Nursery Site is considered to be the best available site for a new Recycling Centre serving the citizens of the west of Aberdeen” [Peter Laurence Report H&E 10/009]





Something smells fishy...!

The following few frames highlights many of the curious conclusions made in this report

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL	
HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:	13 April 2010
CORPORATE DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Location for West of City Recycling Centre
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/10/009
1. PURPOSE OF REPORT	
The purpose of the report is to outline the results of a consultation exercise relating to potential sites for a new Recycling Centre in the west of the city and to request that committee selects a preferred site for the Recycling Centre.	

Photos of examples are misleading (P357) – both sites illustrated are in heavily “industrialised” locations

The location of this (rather sanitized) picture from Mr Lawrence’s report...



... is actually here... In an industrial park in Neath – Wales!

This example is in an industrial site in Glasgow



*Hazlehead is not an
industrial zone*

Academy

Playing
Fields

(New) Hazlehead
Primary School



Golf
Club

Car Parks
& entrance
to the Park

**Grove Nursery – proposed
location for recycling plant**

**Extract from Report:
H&E/10/009**

Quote (P358): *“That the area of the Langstracht is regarded as the preferred area within the west of the city, with the Whitemyres Industrial Estate seen as the best location of all”.*

**WHY NOT MAKE IT HAPPEN
THERE - THEN?**

**Extract from Report:
H&E/10/009**

Re Hazlehead Caravan Park (P360): quote:
“Notwithstanding any proposed mitigation measures, it is likely that there will be strong public opposition to this site which may adversely affect the ability to secure planning permission”

**WHY ANY DIFFERENCE TO
THE GROVE NURSERY...?**

**Extract from Report:
H&E/10/009**

Quote (P361): *“In conclusion, none of the sites identified satisfy all of the criteria for a Recycling Centre”*

**IN WHICH CASE – LOOK
ELSEWHERE!**

The summary sheet (P363) “Site of environmental designation” has a score of “1” for all sites ... a little disingenuous perhaps as there is surely an environmental distinction between an industrial site (Whitemyres) and a recreational site (eg Hazlehead)?

Table 1. Sites for West of City Recycling Centre – Summary Sheet

Criteria	Sites for Consideration												Score				
	Kingswells Park and Ride	Adjacent Kingswells	Hazledene Road	Pinewood	Grove Nursery Hazlehead	Hazlehead Caravan Park	Hazlehead Bus Park	Summerhill	Rousay Drive	Whitemyres Estate	Greenferns	Greenhill	1	2	3	4	5
Size (minimum 0.75 acre)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	Large				Small
Proximity for users	5	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	Centre				Periphery
Proximity to Housing	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	0	0	3	4	3	Far				Close
Existing Site User	0	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	3	No				Yes
Land Availability	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	2		Yes	No		
Planning Risk (zoning)	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	1	3	Low				High
Site has competition for use	4	2	3	4	3	2	2	4	4	4	2	3		No	Yes		
Ease of Access for Public and Collection Vehicles	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Easy				Difficult
Traffic risk	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	Low				High
Site of environmental designation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	No				Yes
Total	26	24	25	26	19	18	22	20	25	22	20	22					

**Extract from Report:
H&E/10/009**

At the Consultation Workshop (P369) on 5th March 2010 there was a notable imbalance of representation from potentially affected Community Councils – three from the Kingswells CC, and one from Braeside and Mannofield with no other Community Councils being part of what was surely a critical consultation.



At that same meeting the quote....

“Due to potential noise and increase in traffic – likely to be a great deal of resistance from Kingswells residents”

...might well equally apply to Hazlehead (if their presence was sought for the consultation)



Just a weekend's traffic on Hazlehead Avenue..

When it comes to Whitemyres (P371):

*“Excellent location due to road network and location” then ...
“Current tenants of Council owned lots are not interested in ending the tenancies”*

– this predicament did not stop ACC giving White Space (Frederick Street) occupants 60 days notice to quit when they wanted the site for their own particular purposes!



The response matrix from Mrs Butler representing the Ashley & Broomhill CC (P373) ...

...clearly identified the Grove Nursery as the **least** appropriate site...

Response from Mrs J Butler on behalf of Ashley and Broomhill Community Council

Taken from J. Butler (Chair) Ashley & Broomhill CC - Response date extended 5/10/11

Potential Sites for West of City Recycling Centre - Summary Sheet

Criteria	Sites for Consideration											
	Kingswells Park and Ride	Adjacent Kingswells	Hazledene Road	Hazlehead Nursery	Hazlehead Caravan Park	Summerhill	Whitemyres Estate	Rousay Drive	Greenfens	Granitehill		
Size (minimum 0.75 acre)												
Proximity for users	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	3
Proximity to Housing	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
Existing Site User	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Land Availability	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Planning Risk (zoning)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Site has competition for use	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ease of Access for Public and Collection Vehicles	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	3	3
Traffic risk	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	3
Site of environmental designation	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	1	1
General Comments												
Total	26	24	27	27	27	27	26	26	26	21	24	24

Score				
1	2	3	4	5
Large				Small
Centre				Periphery
Far				Close
No				Yes
Low	Yes	No		High
	No	Yes		
Easy				Difficult
Low				High
No				Yes
Deliverable				Blockade

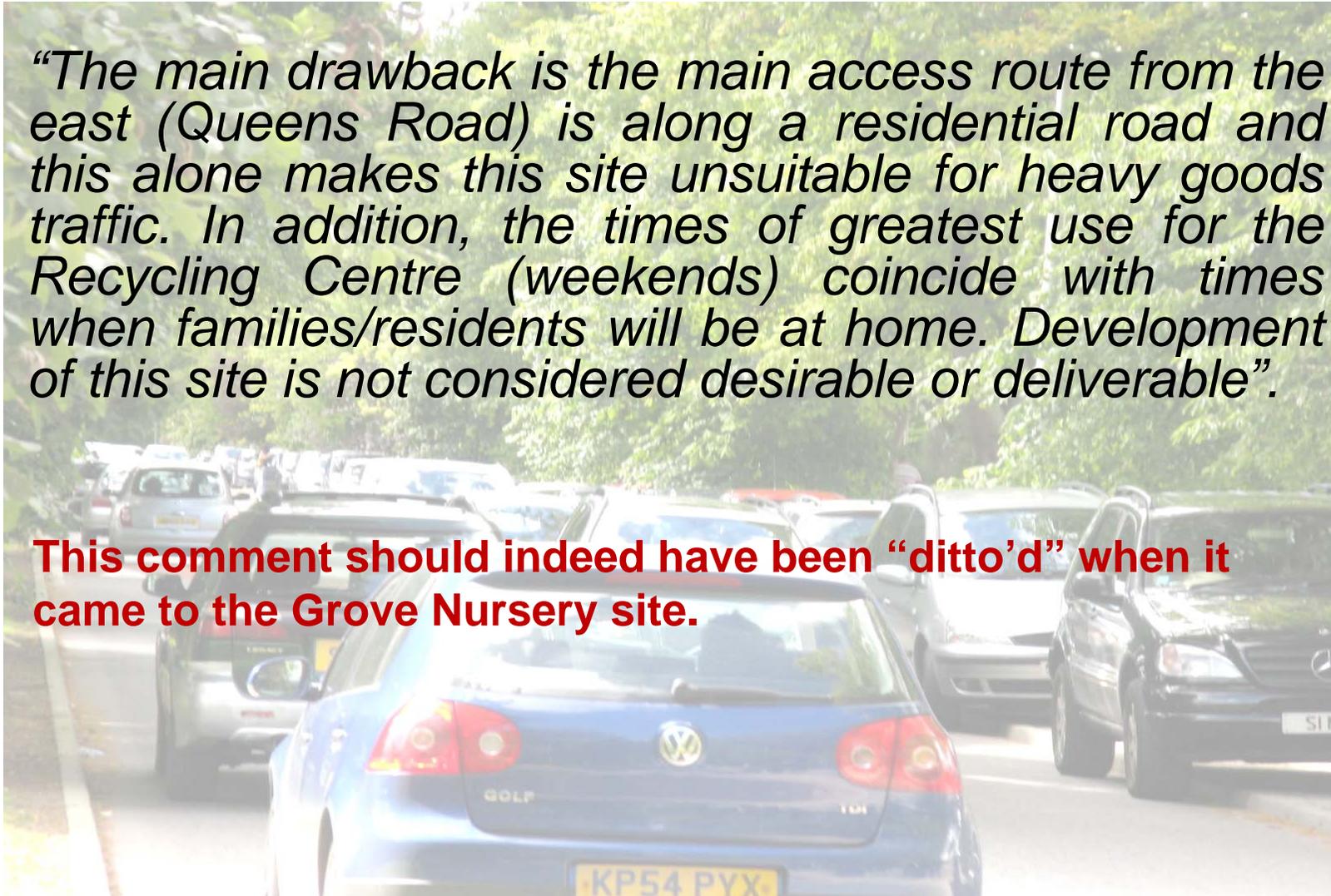
preferred site

...having the joint highest score of 27 – also clearly identifying **environmental issues** as of prime importance

The General Comments from the summary page for the Hazledene Road site (P381) reads:

“The main drawback is the main access route from the east (Queens Road) is along a residential road and this alone makes this site unsuitable for heavy goods traffic. In addition, the times of greatest use for the Recycling Centre (weekends) coincide with times when families/residents will be at home. Development of this site is not considered desirable or deliverable”.

This comment should indeed have been “ditto’d” when it came to the Grove Nursery site.



The General Comments from the summary page for the Grove Nursery site (P383) reads:

“Asset Policy considers this land to have high value development potential and are not in favour of introducing this land use into the site. Planning colleagues are also reluctant to consider change of use”.

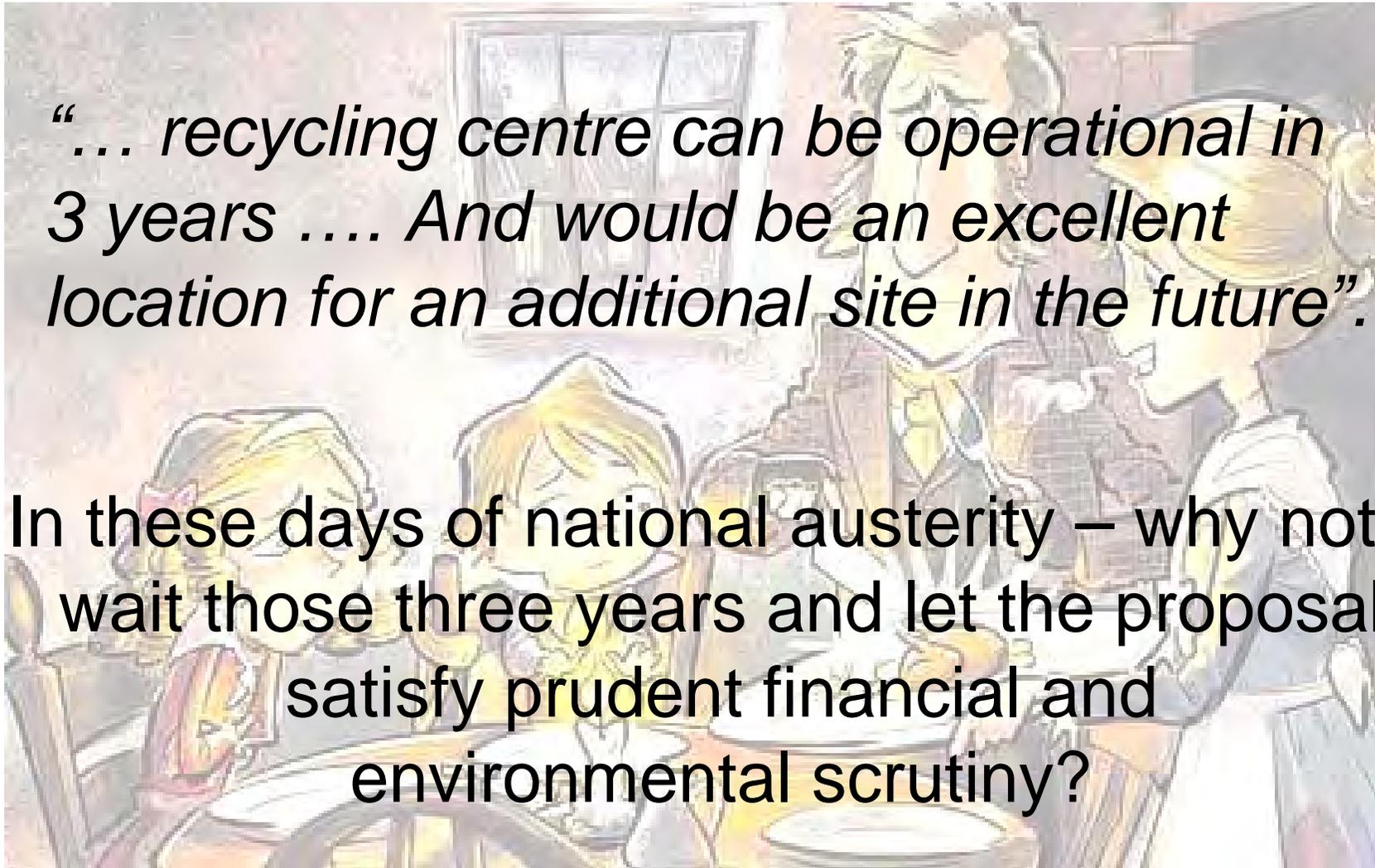
It should have therefore drawn the common conclusion:

“Development of this site is not considered desirable or deliverable”.

The Greenferns site (the report suggests on P389)

“... recycling centre can be operational in 3 years And would be an excellent location for an additional site in the future”.

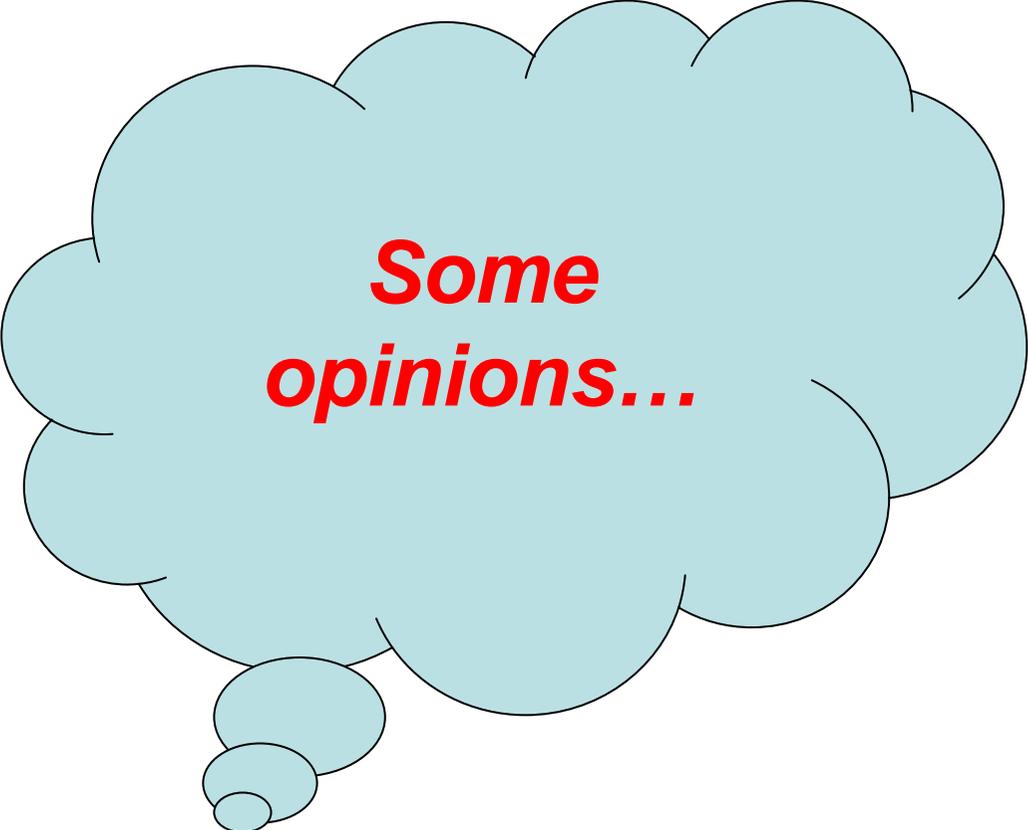
In these days of national austerity – why not wait those three years and let the proposal satisfy prudent financial and environmental scrutiny?



Oh - and by the way...



Hazlehead Primary School was not even mentioned in the H&E/10/009 report – which was the basis of the planning committee’s upcoming vote



***Some
opinions...***



A supporting
note from
“Keep
Scotland
Beautiful”

I hope that you are able to mobilise your local community to express their views on this proposed development and that your campaign helps focus attention on the effects that the development would have on the amenities in your area.

Regards
Anne
Anne Strachan
Beautiful Scotland Co-ordinator
Keep Scotland Beautiful
Wallace House
17-21 Maxwell Place
Stirling FK8 1JU



A note from
the squirrel
control
officer...

We are always interested to hear about potential red squirrels sightings, so thank you for letting us know.

There are red squirrels close by, in Den Wood which is just along the road, so it may well have been a red. However there are also grey squirrels in that area too.

Please continue to let us know of any future sightings.

Kind regards

James Kennedy
Grey Squirrel Control Officer
Inverdee House
Baxter Street, Torry, Aberdeen

Small sample of people's comments...

"Too narrow roads, noise & danger to

"Have you totally forgotten about tourism! This is the wrong place – not a good advert for the city and visitors to the city"

AB15

"Terrible idea – our children travel up from Yorkshire to this park – won't if you build it!"

LS19

"Leave this area alone – we need a the spaces we

ave"

Please rethink this

an"

ple for this

A waste recycling centre of this size is totally ludicrous

ext to the park"

B32

will create lots of tra traffic and oil the park"

16

ars as a family and this is a grave

concern for us"

AB31

"Hazlehead has always been for recreation and children"

AB32

h & safety – he sphere of the

park
GU52

"For visitors this suggestion is a disaster"

AB44

"Far too close to the kid's play park –

"Ridiculous plan!"

AB11



People with placards and banners form a human barricade at JWS Recycling and Skip Hire Ltd on Frederick Street, Charlestown, Salford. They claim the smell and noise from the plant is making their lives a 'living hell'

Hazlehead is such a wonderful
amenity for diverse groups of
people

Such as ...

Runners ... run...



Parents do ... “the school run” ...





School
children...
cross...



People ... just go to and from the park...



Equestrians... ride...



Kids ... cycle



Walkers ... walk...



“Mind me please ... just crossing...”



Footballers park ... & play



The Parks group... access and egress...



It gets busy at times...



Umm... this could make things interesting...



*So – we now come to the fateful
Council Meeting of 13th April...*

Agenda Item 9.9

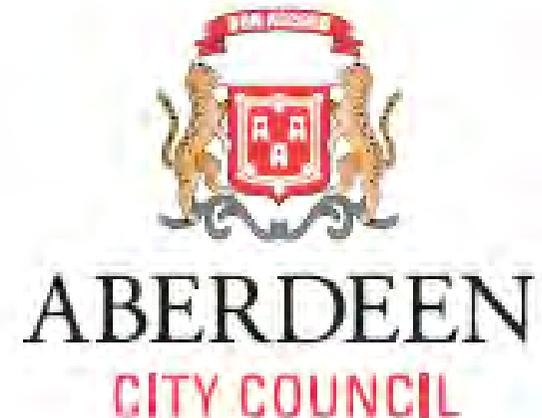
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: 13 April 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT Location for West of City Recycling Centre

REPORT NUMBER: H&E/10/009



From the: Minutes:

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Kevin Stewart declared an interest in the following article, by virtue of his membership on the NEM SITA Management Board. Councillor Stewart did not consider it necessary to withdraw from the meeting.



From the Minutes:

(1) that the area of the Lang Stracht was regarded as the preferred area within the west of the city, with the Whitemyres Industrial Estate seen as the best location;



From the Minutes:

The report concluded that none of the sites identified satisfied all of the criteria for a recycling centre



From the Minutes:

The report recommended:-

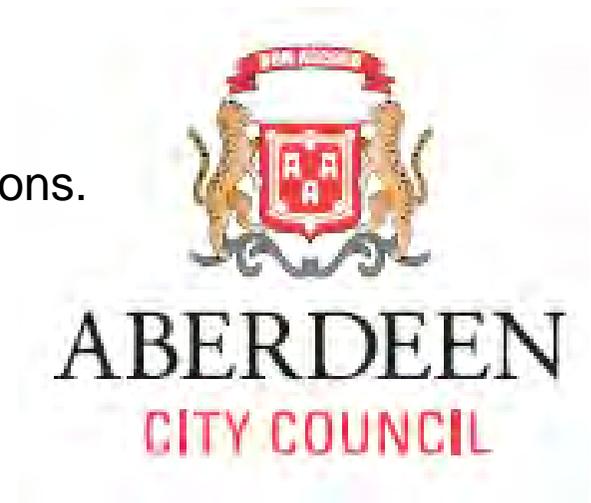
that the Committee:

- (a) approve the selection of the north west corner of the Grove Nursery site in Hazlehead, accessed from Hazlehead Avenue, as the preferred site for a recycling centre; and
- (b) recommend that the Greenfern Recycling Centre is retained within the masterplan for Greenferns and is developed as soon as roads and services are established to the site.

The Vice Convener, ***seconded by Councillor Kevin Stewart***, moved:-

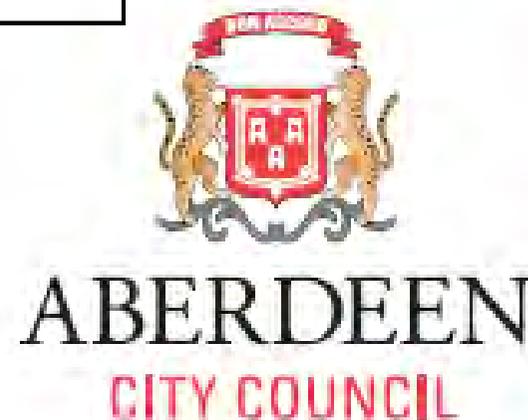
that the Committee approve the recommendations.

This was accepted by a 10 / 5 majority



At H&E Committee Meeting on 13th April 2010	Ward	Party
Against Grove Nursery as Prospective Site		
Aileen Malone	Lower Deeside	Lib Dem
Ronald Clark	Dyce/ Bucksburn/ Danestone	Lib Dem
Neil Fletcher	Hilton/ Stockethill	Lib Dem
Richard Robertson	Tillydrone/ Seaton/ Old Aberdeen	Lib Dem
Ian Yuill	Airyhall/ Broomhill/ Garthdee	Lib Dem
For Grove Nursery as Prospective Site		
Mark McDonald	Dyce/ Bucksburn/ Danestone	SNP
Yvonne Allan	Torry/ Ferryhill	Labour
Norman Collie	Tillydrone/ Seaton/ Old Aberdeen	Labour
Neil Cooney	Kincorth /Loirston	Labour
John Corall	Midstocket/ Rosemount	SNP
Jackie Dunbar	Northfield	SNP
James Hunter	George Street/ Harbour	Labour
Alan Milne	Lower Deeside	Conservative
Jim Noble	Tillydrone/ Seaton/ Old Aberdeen	SNP
Kevin Stewart	Northfield	SNP

*The vote split along party lines
– surely this is far too
important to be treated like a
political football...?*



From the Minutes:

The Convener, seconded by Councillor Yuill, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee (1) defers the consideration of recommendation (a) to allow officers to conclude discussions with Aberdeenshire Council in order to identify a site along the Kingswells to Westhill corridor that would be suitable for the recycling centre; (2) instruct that officers report back after the summer recess on the outcome of these discussions; and (3) approve recommendation (b) as detailed above.

This was rejected...



Surely the proposition....

“that the Committee (1) defers the consideration of recommendation (a) to allow officers to conclude discussions with Aberdeenshire Council in order to identify a site along the Kingswells to Westhill corridor that would be suitable for the recycling centre; (2) instruct that officers report back after the summer recess on the outcome of these discussions; and (3) approve recommendation (b) as detailed above.”

... would have been the reasonable and sensible conclusion to arrive at....?

As our elected Councillors there comes a time when you simply have to listen – and respect the opinion of your electorate

***Don't let history brand you the
"Hatchet-men of Hazlehead"!***

This can not be undone

We all know and love this park – don't we?

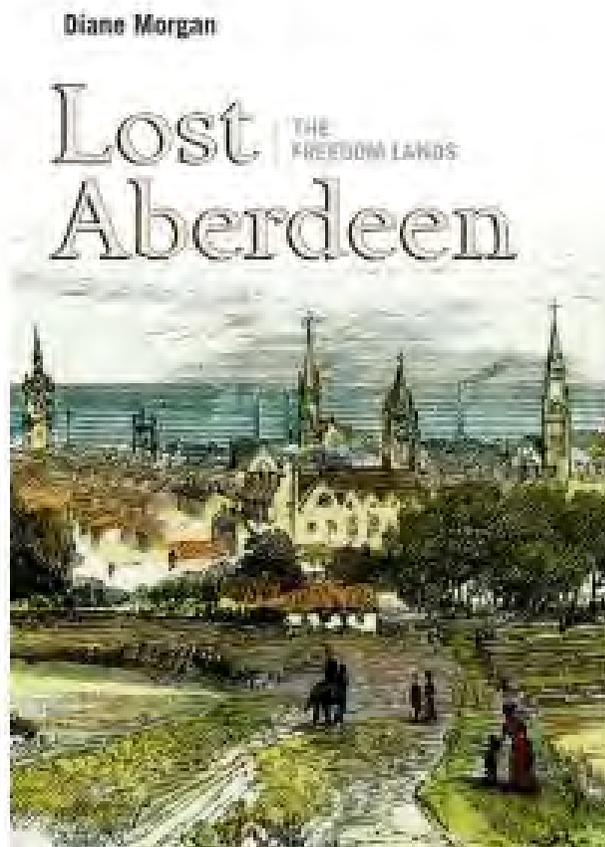


From the Council's own website...

“A park of over 180 hectares, which was originally part of the freedom lands granted to the city in 1319. The land fell into private ownership but was bought back by the council in 1920. This park is on the outskirts of Aberdeen and is heavily wooded. It is popular with sports enthusiasts, walkers, naturalists and picnickers. Around the park are football pitches, a golf course, pitch and putt course and woods for walking. The park itself has rose gardens, azalea & rhododendron borders, heather beds, a children's play area and a pets' corner. The park has a significant collection of sculpture by a range of artists and heritage items which have been rescued from various places within the city.”

This proposal hardly suggests responsible custodianship!

Hazlehead...



was originally part of the freedom lands granted to the city in 1319 by Robert the Bruce...

Why not continue and give people freedom for the next 700 years?



Finally - We're not
against recycling –
in fact we're
absolutely for it –
but – there simply
must be a more
appropriate site
than the Grove
Nursery
Hazlehead!