

I



UTG

Friends of Union Terrace Gardens

Newsletter 10: July 2011
www.FriendsOfUTG.org

NOBODY ELECTED THEM!

All architects need a design brief and the city square project is no exception. The brief informs the architect as to what a building or particular feature is going to be used for so that they can design it. The design brief for the city square project was supposed to be signed off by the council on the 29th of June. This never happened as the design brief was not ready in time.

It hasn't stopped them handing out the brief to the architects. It seems that they are not going to bother waiting until the next council meeting in August, they are in too much of a hurry.

So it's the faceless businessmen on the city square board who actually tells the architects what the city centre is going to look like, not our elected representatives. And what have they decided?

The so-called city garden will be a 'contemporary 21st century garden'.

A conference and exhibition centre will be built under the city square.

Nobody elected them. So why should they decide what our public open green space is going to look like?

Please go to writetothem.com and tell your M.P. and councillors how you feel!



A REFERENDUM FOR THE CITY SQUARE?

Alex Salmond was in the news recently as he is supporting a referendum for the city square. Once the final design has been picked, then he is suggesting that there should be a ballot whereby the Aberdeen public should be allowed a straight choice between a city square and keeping the Gardens.

The public were consulted on the issue last year and said no. Now we may be asked again. Some believe that we are being asked to vote yet again in the hope that we give them the 'right answer' this time. Others see this as a genuine chance of killing off the vastly unpopular city square.

Whatever your opinion, it is clear that if the politicians ever want to regain the public trust again after the debacle of the public consultation, they would have to ensure that any referendum is binding, fair and independent. If it is, the Aberdeen public will throw the city square out (again). If we had wanted a modern city square in the centre of our city, we would have said so the first time like it or not.

FRIENDS OF UNION TERRACE GARDENS CEILIDH

A fundraising Ceilidh was held in June at the Hilton Treetops hotel. The evening was such a success that we hope to make it an annual event!



Thanks to Clachan Yell for an excellent performance, those who donated items for the silent auction and raffle and finally to Dame Anne Begg MP for giving a rousing speech. We raised £4300 on the evening which will go towards our campaign fighting fund.

FRIENDS AGM COMING SOON!

The FoUTG AGM will be happening again in September and all members are of course invited. There will be an opportunity for you to put yourself forward as a committee member and vote on the election of re-standing and new committee members. Make sure you have joined up before the end of August if you wish to vote or be considered for the committee.

Nominations for Committee positions must be made in writing to either;
**FoUTG PO Box 10507 Aberdeen
AB12 9EY**

or email address saveutg@gmail.com
by 15th August 2011

Please state your name, address, and position you wish to stand for, and include a paragraph of 150 words on why you wish to stand for that position and what you hope to bring to it.

DEMOS AND PICNICS

Many thanks to all our members and supporters who helped make our recent demonstrations and Picnic such a success. We counted at least 1200 people at the Big Picnic and each demonstration in June attracted around 50 people. One such demonstration during the opening of the new Marischal College complex on 21st June that was remarkably successful with interviews on STV and articles in the local press. On the 29th June when Councillors were meeting to discuss the CSP, we were there to remind them that they should pull the plug on the project now.



There will be other actions planned in the future – please look out for emails.

By Renée Slater

FoUTG are...

- ✓ Pressing for the Design Competition for City Square to be opened up to all options including retaining and enhancing the Gardens rather than destroying them by decking them over.
- ✓ Directly enhancing the Gardens e.g. Re-introducing giant draughts sets to the Gardens and investigating how toilets and disabled access can be provided in the gardens.
- ✓ Preventing ownership or lease of the Gardens being transferred away from the city and to another body, such as an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)
- ✓ Working with a wide variety of organisations and individuals to maximise usage of Union Terrace Gardens throughout the year and investigate funding options for improvements.
- ✓ Investigating the proposed funding mechanism, Tax Incremental Funding, and the likely impact on the city.

Lots of I ♥ UTG merchandise is available including totebags, t-shirts, hoodies, umbrellas, car stickers, calenders and teddy bears! Contact saveutg@gmail.com visit facebook.com/utgshop for online t-shirt orders.

Please Join! We need you!

I support the Aims of Friends of Union Terrace Gardens

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

- £10 Businesses, Groups, Families (+ £ ... Donation welcome)
- £5 Individual (+ £ Donation welcome) or
- £3 concessions (students, pensioners, etc)

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Union Terrace Gardens.

Only members can vote at Friends AGM but we welcome everyone as a Supporter (see website)

Return to: FoUTG PO Box 10507 Aberdeen AB12 9EY

