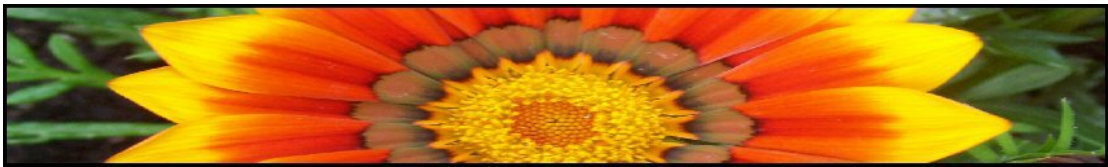


City Garden?



We already have one!

Vote Retain Union Terrace Gardens

ECONOMICS



Regardless of what you feel about the futuristic design, the City Garden Project is not appropriate in the current financial climate.

Aberdeen City Council is currently £562 million in debt and making massive cuts to local services:

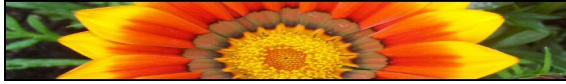
- Classroom assistants and respite care already cut
- Homeless services and school crossing patrols at risk
- School closures being considered
- 150 council jobs to be axed in 2012/13

The City Garden Project is intended to cost £140 million:

- *Up to* £50 million has been donated by Ian Wood
- It is hoped that the private sector will give £20 million
- £70 million is to be borrowed by the council through the TIF tax scheme
- The TIF scheme relies on a big increase in business rates to pay back the loan on completion of the project
- Think of the Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh's Tram Project - how likely is it that this project will come in on budget?
- If the cost of the City Garden Project exceeds the current estimate, the people of Aberdeen will have to pay the difference

The media reported that the City Garden Project would create 6500 new jobs. This claim is untrue:

- The figure of 6500 jobs was for a *city-wide* regeneration project, including major industrial sites in Dyce and the Bridge of Don
- The report shows *no evidence* that the City Garden Project will create a single job for Aberdeen



ENVIRONMENT'

- A WWF Scotland report recently showed dangerously high levels of pollution in Aberdeen City Centre
- The technical feasibility study for the City Garden Project states: *“Removal of mature trees and existing ecological habitat; 78 mature trees would be lost... The ecological value of these trees would take decades to replace as many of the trees are up to 200 years old.”*
- Big trees are important as they absorb carbon and filter more pollution from the air than smaller trees. A study in ‘Ecology’ concluded that: *“Big trees, the ones the Victorians planted for us, are what we need to maintain, but they are few and far between.”*
- Removal of the trees in Union Terrace Gardens will increase already high pollution levels in the city centre
- Although there are large trees pictured in the designs of the Granite Web, it would take nearly 100 years for them to grow to the size shown
- In addition to the loss of trees and wildlife, the construction phase of the City Garden Project will *“cause large environmental impacts from noise, dust, transport and energy use”* which *“would have large environmental and social impacts on the local area...”* (ACSEF website)



**INSERT
WORLD CLASS
CITY SQUARE
HERE!**

JUST IMAGINE!

Aberdeen Against Austerity are not against change. We fully support initiatives which would improve the city centre and draw businesses back to Union Street. We think it's great someone wants to donate £50 million to such projects and would encourage everyone to invest in our city – in an open and ethical manner.

But why destroy a beautiful city garden to build a City Garden?

Instead, we believe that a world class City Square should be built right here, between these two magnificent granite buildings.





HERITAGE

Have you ever wondered why Union Terrace Gardens fits so well in the city?

The gardens were designed by the same architects as St Mark's Church, the Cowdray Hall, the Art Gallery, and Marischal College. They are Grade B listed and part of our fine cultural heritage.



The stunning Victorian toilets are a wonderful example of period architecture and craftsmanship. Re-open them!

Several of the arches have boarded up tunnels that lead to buildings on Union Terrace. Re-open them!



The Youth Council of Aberdeen has strongly condemned the proposed City Garden Project. They *"want to be able to enjoy the beautiful and historic gardens with (their) children in years to come, and see it naïve that centuries' of heritage could be destroyed to make way for a project that the majority of citizens have already said they don't want."*

Toilets: ScotlandsPlaces website
Arches: jimspplace website

HAPPENINGS



Union Terrace Gardens have been at the heart of the city for over 100 years.



Over that time the gardens have seen so much life - highland dancing, giant draughts, concerts and much, much more. Many still refer to the gardens as the 'Trainy Park' - the trains used to be an attraction.

There was an ice rink and an annual party at Hogmanay, and in summer the gardens were a vibrant hub with picnics, gigs and even a circus school for kids.

Why spend £140 million to build a City Garden?

The granite city already has a green heart.

We just need to show it some love. How about refurbished toilets with an attendant, improved access and new lighting?



We have beautiful, historic city gardens: Union Terrace Gardens.

Please vote to retain them.

Draughts: Aberdeen Official Handbook by H Webber, Ed Burrow & Co, 1948, Local Photos website
Dancing: 1957, Belmont Series Postcard, Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums website

Vote Retain Union Terrace Gardens

Thanks for reading me ☺

For further information or to join our campaign to save Union Terrace Gardens
from the bulldozers contact:

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