

ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 1995

Why a Newsletter ?

The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility to keep you, our members, as well informed as possible about everything that is happening in the

Preservation Trust. This is the age of great change, and we, the Trustees, find it quite difficult enough to keep up to date. But the Trust depends on all its members for its continued existence, and we have found it difficult to keep in regular touch with a great many of you. So this newsletter is an experiment. We feel that we have much to tell you about what is going on in the Trust at present, and we will welcome feedback from any of you who care to contact us. We aim to send out future newsletters as the need arises rather than on a regular basis. So here goes. Do tell us what you think of it, and let us know if there is anything else you would like to see included.

The Editorial Team

The Local Plan inquiry

First a little history to put the Inquiry into perspective The Fife Structure Plan was produced by Fife Regional Council and outlines the development proposals for the whole of Fife. It does

not have a fixed timescale, but the housing land allocation within it is projected to the year 2001. The St. Andrews Local Plan, which was the subject of the Inquiry was produced by North East Fife District Council, and has to conform to the Regional Structure Plan. However the District tried to take a rather longer term view in its proposals to try to provide greater certainty for future planning decisions. To complicate matters further, Fife Region is also engaged in a Strategic Study which will look at least ten years ahead. This report is at present in draft form and should be finalised about December 1995.

Turning now to the Report itself, it is a rather indigestible document of almost 150 pages. The Reporter accepted few of the proposals made by any of the parties, but we feel that our objections received a reasonably sympathetic hearing, and the Trust came out of it well. We think that cannot be said for the Muir Group's case! In response to our objections, the Reporter noted that the number of housing sites recommended in the Local Plan exceeded the number

in the Structure Plan, and noted that it is the Secretary of State's intention to defer any major development until the result of the Strategic Study is known. She found the landscape surrounding the town to be well worth protecting, but commented that Green Belt Status was not within her remit. She rejected our arguments against an industrial site at Strathtyrum. She accepted that there are many problems regarding car parking and traffic control, but said that this should be dealt with separately by Fife Region in its Transportation Survey. On the harbour area she stated that there is potential for development opportunities for visitors, and cope for environmental improvement.

The Trust its Planning Committee is considering all these points, and will make representations to the local authorities on them.

St. Nicholas Farm Site

Development of this site is under active consideration by the District Council at present. We objected to this development at the Inquiry, and the Reporter stated that the greatest care would be required in layout of this site.

Building heights should be restricted and development in the south-west corner avoided. She recommends the number of houses should be restricted to about 60, and that there should be a high standard of landscaping along the edge close to the main road.

We in the Trust are most unhappy with the present proposals which are for 87 houses of undistinguished design. We are doing all we can to have the plans altered. We need your help. You can do this by writing to the Director of Planning, North East Fife District Council, County Buildings, Cupar, recording your objection to the present planning application for this site.

The Museum

Many of you will know by now that the Trustees took a decision in April not to proceed with an extension to the Museum. It was taken after a great deal of anguished discussion, and some trustees are still unhappy about it. But the majority feeling was that we were unlikely to obtain a large enough sum from an appeal to allow us to both build and run the enlarged Museum. Meantime the present Museum is still alive and well. We decided to introduce a charge for admission this year, and are not too sure that this was a good thing! We have a special display this summer of paintings by Ada Walker who lived and worked in St. Andrews.

The Museum is open every afternoon during the summer, and if you have not already paid a visit this year, we urge you to do so. Please introduce yourself to our curator, Emily Cook, who is full of enthusiasm and keeping everything in order.

Money Matters

The Trust is running at a substantial deficit these days which gives us all a lot of worry. When interest rates were high we had a much better return from our investments. Now the return is much lower, and our costs are outstripping our income by a considerable margin. We have a detailed review in progress, and various plans are under consideration. But it is likely that we will have to cut our cloth to make ends meet. We do have some reserves which are helping to cushion us temporarily, but these cannot last for ever. So we need your support. We realise that many of you already give generously to the Trust. What we really need is more members, preferably subscribing by deed of covenant which lets us get the tax back. We have not had a membership drive for some time, and plan to start one shortly. You can help us by encouraging your friends to become members. Please try to help us in this way. If you prefer that we should approach them rather than you, just let us have names and addresses and we will do the rest.

We are listing your Trustees for the current season below with their telephone numbers in case you want to lobby any of us. We have also detailed in brackets which of us are committee conveners. We will be happy to hear from you on anything related to the Trust's work.

Bill Adams	472482
June Baxter	474995
Clive Burhouse	473304
Gillian Falconer (Museum)	472422
Eddie Fraser (Planning)	47355x
Penny Fraser (Tree & Environment)	477683
Lindsay Hodge	473729
Mary King	01333 310017
Bob Murray (Chairman)	472917
Dorothea Morrison	473365
Bob Naylor (Vice-Chairman)	487440
Edwina Proudfoot	473293
Anne Rose (Publications & Publicity)	472986
Timothy Tynte-Irvine (Finance)	473150
Penny Uprichard	4741xx
Elizabeth Williams (Vice-Chairman)	47429x
Christine Wolfe	473774

Who to Contact