



*****The Old Royal High School – Hotel Development, revised plans*****

The revised planning application for a hotel development on the **Old Royal High School** site was lodged with the council on 13 February, and is on the Council's Planning Portal

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk> reference numbers 17/00588/FUL and 17/00587/LBC

The Public Inquiry was SISTED (paused) giving the developers time to submit a second application. The developers are now asking that the original plans, the revised plans and those for a music school previously granted by the City Council, be called in by the Minister and all three be reviewed together for a decision. This would bypass the City Council's planning committee.

We believe this would be wrong and unprecedented.

We will join other heritage organisations at a public meeting on Tuesday, 14 March at 6.00 – 8.00 pm at the Central Hall, 2 West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP

Come along to find out about the process thus far, why we all believe the proposals will be so damaging and how to object.

If you would like to come to the office to view the proposals and find out how to object we are open Monday – Thursday, 11am – 4pm, each week up to the deadline for objections on 24 March 2017.

I urge you to lodge your objection and encourage others to do so. We must make our voices heard by the decision makers at local and government level.

I enclose information on reasons for objection and who to write to.



Good News for West Princes Street Gardens

West Princes Street Gardens is an incredible area of green space in the heart of the city centre. It has a fascinating historical significance, acting as a link between the Old and New Town, and it is a 'place for people', hosting major annual events as well as providing a haven of peace amidst the bustle of the city.

A design competition has been launched this month for the regeneration of the **Ross Pavilion**. The first stage of the competition will be an international search for a multi-disciplinary design team, based on relevant skills, past experience and an understanding of the project brief.

A selection panel will review these first stage submissions and shortlist five practices, who will be given a further briefing and asked to produce concept designs for the Pavilion. As part of a wide-ranging consultation process, the Trust will hold a public exhibition of the schemes and ask the public for their views.

The **Ross Fountain** has lain derelict and been without water for a number of years and continues to deteriorate. The Ross Development Trust have commissioned an experienced heritage conservation specialist to manage the restoration process, with work expected to start in early 2017 pending Council consent.



The restoration process involves dismantling all 122 pieces of the fountain before individually repairing, restoring and repainting each piece. The fountain will then be rebuilt in the same location in which it currently sits.

The work required is extensive and budgeted at a figure in excess of £1million. The whole project should take most of the year 2017 to complete, and we are assured that after restoration, the Ross Fountain will be in pristine condition, capable of withstanding the Scottish climate for the next 100 years.

The original installation took place nearly 150 years ago, at a time when building practices were not as disciplined as the modern standards. The Fountain has little by way of foundations and over the years it has tilted off the vertical, and originally water conservation was not an issue.

Piling and ground works will be supplemented by an underground chamber that will house the necessary pumps, filtration, and other plant.

You are invited to a presentation to find out more and how to get involved

Monday 13 March, 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Conference Room, Apex Grassmarket Hotel, 31-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HS

Sir Sandy Crombie, our President, and Trustee of the Ross Development Trust will chair the meeting. Norman Springford will attend and David Ellis, Project Director will give the presentation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's **AGM** will be held on Monday, 11 September at 6.00pm, details to follow.

Edinburgh Doors Open Day will be held, subject to funding, on the last weekend of **September, 23rd/24th** with a week of talks from Monday 18th September. The brochure is available to our members by mid-August and released 1st September.



There will be a visit to **St Cecilia's Hall** in May for our members, an early opportunity to see the redevelopment work that has been taking place.

18th May 12 noon – 1.30 pm, meeting in the lobby

There will be a tour and a talk about the history of the building and its renovation by Head of Museums, Jacky MacBeath.

This event is for Cockburn members only and places are limited so please register with Joseph who will confirm your booking.

admin@cockburnassociation.org.uk or phone 0131 557 8686

Originally built in 1763 and named after the patron saint of music, St. Cecilia's Hall is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland, and the second oldest in the British Isles. At the heart of this Georgian building is its concert room, surrounded by three galleries which house one of the world's most important collections of historic musical instruments, many of which are still playable in a concert setting. Yet time, architectural intervention and urban development have hidden away this exceptional Georgian treasure and the rare collections it contains. The University's vision is to restore and renovate the building and its facilities in order to preserve the Collection and broaden its appeal to a wider public.

This will be my last newsletter to members as I will be leaving the Association soon. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Cockburn Association as Director for the past seven and a half years. To follow in Lord Cockburn's footsteps in seeking to *enhance and preserve the beauty of Edinburgh* has been frustrating, challenging, delightful and worthwhile, a real roller coaster of a ride almost every day! It is a wrench to leave, especially with so much left to fight for, and I wish the Association, you the members, all the very best for the future. Thank you for your support during my time with you.



Marion Williams, Director, 2009 - 2017