

## Item No 3.2

To Edinburgh City Council - Planning Committee, 26th February 2015

- We request that the 'minded to grant' planning permission for 17 townhouses to be built in Granton Castle Walled Garden is withdrawn immediately.

REF: 03/04595/FUL

Reasons for this request - It has been almost 12 years since there was an opportunity for community input or any public consultation on the planning decision taken in 2003, based upon a Masterplan drawn up in 2001. Many changes in national and local policy have taken place since that time and we ask for a chance to be heard. At the very least allow community members to participate now in the planning consultation process, should Waterfront Edinburgh Ltd (WEL) choose to re-apply for planning permission in the future.

Withdrawal of the planning permission in the third round of Legacy Clearance would allow full investigation and survey of this Listed Garden by Historic Scotland and other expert organisations.

WEL are planning to build in what may be the Oldest Walled Garden in Edinburgh, with occupancy and horticultural use dating back to 1479.

Recent evidence pieced together shows the garden's use in the Stewart era by owner Sir Thomas Hope, 1st Lord Advocate of Scotland. The 2012 publication by the RCAHMS, aptly named Scotland's Lost Gardens, highlights the fact that very few gardens survived from this time.

Granton Castle Walled Garden is near miraculous in its survival from late medieval times to the present day. It offers the opportunity for genuine community led restoration, planning, management and operation of a 'living link' to the past.

Our history and culture are entwined in this ancient walled garden, and we feel it deserves a chance to survive. Quality Openspace of such historic and environmental significance is very rare on the industrialised waterfront at Granton.

- We ask that Granton Castle Walled Garden is considered as a Candidate Special Landscape Area, taking into account its rarity, associated historic figures & events, archaeological interest, and historic agricultural land-use.

Local Development Plan designation of the walled garden as Openspace is of no consequence to developers WEL Ltd, and isn't seen as an obstacle to building in this historic greenspace.

We ask that it given further protection as a Special Landscape Area. The City Council will be responsible for creating and implementing a food growing strategy from 2016, in accordance with the Community

## Deputation letter on behalf of Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden

Empowerment bill legislation as it stands. Fertile unpolluted land like this is valuable in its own right as it has great potential for urban food growing. Our Friends Group would like to expand and build on the existing skills base within North Edinburgh, involving a diverse range of age-groups and cultural backgrounds, representative of the area.

The city council's own advisory group Edible Edinburgh were in agreement in principle with the idea of identifying land within the city boundary which is suitable for food growing.

Forth Ward is one of the least affluent areas in Edinburgh and the social, environmental, health and wellbeing benefits of the walled garden being accessible and returned to productivity for the community should not be underestimated.

Previously representation, REF 1994, was made to the second local development plan and we hope this can be read along with this deputation letter before considering the future of Granton Castle Walled Garden.

Kirsty Sutherland  
Linda Garcia  
Ellie Clerk