

Appendix 3 – Wallace Tower Consultation - Representations submitted

To all concerned,

I am greatly in favour of the restoration of Wallace Tower as a building of real significance in Aberdeen's history.

Given that the building was purchased and managed with Aberdeen's Common Good Fund, I am of the opinion that such responsibility rightly lies with Aberdeen City Council.

Without being afforded access to architectural development plans it is difficult to make fair representation either for or against the proposals set out by (TCDT).

However, the guidance given on the consultation, in essence details a community cafe, community hall for hire and office space.

I am sceptical that such community facilities will serve or benefit many tourists or locals visiting Seaton Park and Old Aberdeen. Or that there is further need for such investment.

An Aberdeen City Council report published in October 2012, titled: Tillydrone Regeneration... no.H&E/12/086, article 5.2.3. states; It has a good provision of community facilities, with centers for young and old distributed around the neighbourhood.

The report pointed to a lack of use and need for regeneration. And as stated by (TCDT), Tillydrone now has a new purpose built Community Campus opened in 2019 at a cost of £6 million which incorporates a cafe and in addition, a Library and Learning Centre.

I consider office space an unsuitable and inappropriate use of the Wallace Tower building.

The Wallace Tower site sits on the fringe of the Seaton Park area. Somewhat apart from the main draws of interest and accessibility for visitors to Seaton Park and Old Aberdeen.

If it was developed as a historic visitor centre attraction in its own right with a cafe then it would attract visitor traffic. But no indication of such development has been given.

The sites location also requires significant amount of car parking provision which does not currently appear to be catered for.

Considering these points and the issue that Aberdeen City Council plans to sell an asset to a private organisation not accountable to the public, the people of Aberdeen.

I do not currently support the transfer of ownership of Wallace Tower. Rather, I would prefer to see Aberdeen City Council with its professional resources undertake this redevelopment as part of a wider plan to develop Aberdeen as a tourist centre destination.

Sincerely,

Karen McDonald

5th October 2022

Dear Cate,

Re-consultation with the Local Community regarding the Disposal of Common Good Land - Wallace Tower

On behalf of Donside Village Community SCIO we would like to express our support for the proposal to transfer the Wallace Tower to Tillydrone Community Development Trust. We agree with the aims of the project as outlined by the trust and consider that the transfer will bring considerable amenity to the communities of Tillydrone and Seaton.

In particular we believe that the transfer will

- Bring a previously neglected building back into use. Specifically, a building with historical significance.
- Bring external investment to the community of Tillydrone.
- Stimulate economic growth in the area.
- Provide a much-needed facility to users of the park and encourage greater usage.
- Provide opportunities for people to learn about the history of the city.
- Help to encourage people to see Tillydrone as a vibrant community.
- Compliment other organisations and activities within the community.
- Provide space for artists which along with the existing Gateway Art Project will assist in creating a reputation for Tillydrone as an area where art flourishes.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Morrison, Secretary/Vice Chair

Donside Village Community SCIO

Good afternoon, Cate

As a resident of Tillydrone for 50 years a Trustee member of TCDT and co-opted member of Tillydrone Community Council I fully support the transfer of Common Good Land and transfer of The Wallace Tower to Tillydrone Community Development Trust for their plans to add the extension to The Tower to facilitate Cafe Space. This project is vital to supporting the Benholms Gateway project and visitors to Seaton Park, a much-needed outdoor Sensory Trail in the Northeast of Scotland for all age groups and those who are physically challenged.

The land is required for the proposed extension of the Wallace Tower ensuring it meets with the necessary Planning Approval from the local authority and Heritage Scotland.

Regards

Linda Barclay

To Whom it May Concern.

We, Tillydrone Community Council, would like to offer our full support to Tillydrone Community Development Trust (TCDT) in regards to their Benholm Tower & Gateway projects.

We hope that TCDT are successful in all their plans to bring this beautiful historic building & surrounding area back to life.

We receive regular updates from TCDT & we are confident that their plans will enhance & improve our community.

We would also like to note our concerns – Benholm Tower has laid empty for a number of years and has, in the past, been a target for vandalism. The building has not been maintained over the years & is now an empty/derelict building. We believe that, with involvement from TCDT, this is a fantastic opportunity for the building to be put to good use.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Cunningham

Secretary

Tillydrone Community Council