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**Glen celebrities' facts questioned**

By Aileen Robertson

**CARNEGIE DUNFERMLINE Trust has insisted it is "singing from the same hymn sheet" as those who are trying prevent a business school being built in Pittencrieff Park.**

High-profile protesters, including Dunfermline-born singer Barbara Dickson, former Skids guitarist Richard Jobson and Scottish authors Iain Banks and Alasdair Gray, have joined the campaign to stop the park being developed.

The trust maintains it has no intention of selling the park, known as the Glen, but has been open about the fact something has to be done to make the gift to the public from Andrew Carnegie economically feasible to run.

Mace, the firm behind the Royal Bank of Scotland's new headquarters at Gogar on the outskirts of Edinburgh, is considering building an international business school and Pittencrieff Park was mooted as a possible site.

The idea provoked outrage and Save The Glen campaigners have already gathered more than 5000 signatures on a petition opposing the idea and have been enlisting the support of well-known names connected to the town.

Mr Jobson, now a film critic, author and director, said building a business school would split the park into sections and destroy it as a place of recreation for the public.

Author and artist Mr Gray, who has painted a mural in Abbot House, said the business school would privatise a part of the Glen and put people off going there.

Yesterday, trust chairman Angus Hogg said campaigners and trustees were "on the same wavelength."

However he said the celebrities had got their facts wrong.

He said, "We would welcome a dialogue with them, and anyone else who emerges from the shadows to voice an opinion. Because then they would see we were all singing from the same hymn sheet.

"We all want to preserve the future of the park. What we have to achieve is an economically feasible way of doing it.

"I do think that some of the celebrities mentioned have offered their opinions after being petitioned by people either not in possession of the full economic facts or who, for one reason or another, did not offer them the full economic facts.

"Either way, if something is presented as a fait accompli, the response is invariably the one sought.

"If I was asked directly if I wanted to 'Save The Glen' I



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would say, of course I do. As a proud citizen of Dunfermline I would always want to preserve our heritage. Being chairman of an organisation, which is tasked with this intention, makes the responsibility more onerous, but in many respects more worthwhile too.

"We have personal responsibility and we have collective responsibility. This is not something we take lightly.

"At the end of the day—personal and collective—the answer is the same. We are going to ensure that the park has a future, in spite of the brickbats being slung.

"We all have broad shoulders and we accept that sometimes it is that way. And in keeping with Andrew Carnegie's wishes we are going to do what is best for the people of Dunfermline."

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