



[October 29, 2006]

Brown accused over bid to build on Carnegie's paradise park

(The Mail on Sunday Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge) CHANCELLOR Gordon Brown has been dragged into a row over 'secret' plans to build a GBP30 million business school in a park bequeathed by Andrew Carnegie.

The MP caused a furore in the constituency he represented for 22 years when a bid to deflect criticism over job losses backfired spectacularly.

Mr Brown - who was the Dunfermline East MP until boundary changes in 1999 - had been touring Rosyth Dockyard in February when news broke that the nearby Lexmark factory was to close with the loss of 500 jobs.

Shortly afterwards, the Chancellor, who now represents Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath but who was then in the area campaigning for Labour candidate Catherine Stihler, disclosed plans for the multimillion pound Harvard-style institution.

But the site of the venture is believed to be Pittencrieff Park, gifted to Dunfermline by Andrew Carnegie. Long considered the jewel in the Fife town's crown, the park was described by the philanthropist as 'paradise'.

Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, which manages the park, has attempted to dismiss speculation.

But it has emerged that it recently petitioned the Privy Council seeking new powers to allow development in the park.

The move has been approved and is currently awaiting the Royal Seal to formalise it.

Pittencrieff Park, also known as the Glen, will then be divided into two areas - with a central core that will remain protected and an outer area which would be available for development.

Local Labour MSP Scott Barrie has gone on the offensive, saying the Dunfermline business school will be in the Glen or not at all.

But a campaign is under way by local residents to halt any development on the park.

Tom Minogue, a retired businessman, said: 'This is an insult to Andrew Carnegie.'

Petitions placed in local shops have gathered hundreds of signatures against the project, and the Dunfermline town website has started an online poll which shows 97 per cent opposition to the planned development.' Mr Minogue added that there was particular anger at the manner in which the trust had 'not only kept the public out of the loop' but had 'failed to

communicate its intent to them'.

However, the trust said it was not obliged to publish details of the amended charter until it received the Scottish Seal.

Nora Rundell, chief executive, said: 'The townspeople have not been consulted yet because there is nothing solid to put before them. The business school is one idea, but it might not happen.

'What is certain is that something has to be created. We have a chance of a GBP5 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, but we have already been asked about sustainability - what happens when that cash runs out?

'The park needs to modernise and grow if it is to be sustainable, and we need investment and income. When we have solid proposals before us, we are bound by our charter to consult the people.'

Mr Minogue has written to Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the dean of Harvard Business School seeking clarification of their intentions, and reminding them of Carnegie's wishes for the Glen.

In his autobiography, published in 1920, he wrote: 'No gift I have made or can ever make can possibly approach that of Pittencrieff Glen, Dunfermline.

'When I heard of paradise, I translated the word into Pittencrieff Glen, believing it to be as near to paradise as anything I could think of.'

Copyright 2006 The Mail on Sunday.

[[Back To TMCnet.com's Homepage](#)]

Copyright 2006 Technology Marketing Corporation (TMC) - All rights reserved