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His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales,  
Prince and Great Steward of Scotland  
Clarence House  
London SW1A 1BA

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006

Dear Sir,

Invitation to a walk in the park.

I write to you not in your capacity of Prince of Wales but in your capacity of Prince and Great Steward of Scotland. I do not know if you have a soft spot for Dunfermline but your namesake and predecessor Prince Charles I certainly did. Not surprising really when one considers that Prince Charles I (1600-1625), later King Charles I (1625-1649), was born in Dunfermline at the Palace which borders Pittencrieff Park.

Dunfermline is steeped in history and tradition and one such tradition was: The “wappinshaw”, this was a periodical muster of the irregular armed force of the country—which got its name from the more immediate purpose of the assembly—namely, an exhibition of weapons (weapons show).

It was on Wappinshaw-day, the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1624, when weapon drill was being carried out that a baillie’s son, William Anderson discharged his gun causing some wadding or tow from the discharge to ignite the heather-thatched roof of a house near the Rotten Row. Thus was the Great Fire of Dunfermline caused.

The Great Fire of Dunfermline destroyed about three-quarters of the town and it was Prince Charles I who came to the rescue of the “poor class of sufferers” of Dunfermline, by contributing £500 Scots for their relief. The reason given by Prince Charles I for this generous donation was: “Dunfermline being my ain toun” [Henderson Annals P.282 and D’Line Press 1.3.1930].

Sadly I write to bring to your attention the disturbing news that there is a possibility that the lovely Pittencrieff Park (known locally as The Glen) in Dunfermline might be spoiled by the building of a £30 million, 100-bed Harvard-style business school.

This would be against the wishes of the majority of the people of Dunfermline, 3,000 of who have signed a petition opposing this move. It would also be against the terms of the 1903 Trust Deed of the bequest of Andrew Carnegie, which was converted into a Royal Charter in 1917. This Royal Charter appears to have been secretly amended this year by

the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust to allow commercial development in The Glen—hardly the good stewardship that Carnegie demanded of his Trustees for his townspeople.

Your Green credentials are well known as is your love of history. I would not ask you to emulate your predecessor's generosity—the sum given then would equal tens of millions of pounds today—nor would I ask you to become involved in the politics of the Royal Charter, but I would ask you—in your role as the Great Steward of Scotland—to consider adding your voice to the massive upsurge of opinion nationwide that seeks, by wise stewardship, to maintain our Victorian parks and reverse their decline.

The fact that land where Prince Charles I probably breathed his first outdoor air might be developed and turned into a business park causes me to extend an invitation to you to come to The Glen and see the green grassy parkland—before it is buried under hundreds of tons of concrete, steel, and glass?

R.S.V.P.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom Minogue, resident of Dunfermline and Press Officer of PPS (Pittencrieff Park Support).

Attachments: 3-page background statement.

## Background of letter to HRH Prince Charles, The Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.

The news that a business park would be built in Dunfermline was first given by Gordon Brown MP on the hustings for the Dunfermline and West Fife by-election in February 2006. The news that The Glen was the preferred site for this project was leaked to the press in June 2006 and spurred me to write to the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust asking them to advise me of the terms of the original Trust Deed and any amendments to the deed. I asked these questions as it is fairly well known that the Trust had wished to develop The Glen but that they could not do this without amending the Royal Charter which defined their mandate.

As no proposed changes to the Royal Charter had been reported, I assumed that none had been applied for; nevertheless I was puzzled as to how the rumours of building in The Glen persisted. Despite repeated requests the Trust has still not answered my questions regarding changes to the terms of the original Royal Charter.

My suspicions, and public concern, were heightened when in late July 2006 the local MSP Scott Barrie was reported in the local paper at stating that it was: “The Glen or nothing for the business school”.

This “take it or leave it” attitude caused a further barrage of protests from local people. Many of these local people were puzzled by the MSP’s ultimatum as they were secure in the knowledge that under the terms of the Royal Charter bequeathing The Glen to the people of Dunfermline the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust is precluded from selling off any of the park land within the boundary walls. Without selling off land there could be no building—yet the rumours persisted.

By early August various petitions opposing the business school were being circulated and I was invited to attend a meeting of several local community leaders to discuss how the concerns felt by us all could be best addressed. It was decided that a group be formed to coordinate opposition to the controversial proposals for building in The Glen. The group was to be known as (Pittencrieff Park Support) PPS.

Several people at the inaugural meeting of PPS had heard rumours that a change to the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust’s Royal Charter was being sought and immediately after the meeting I did a Google search on this subject and to my amazement found that a Supplemental Charter had been applied for in the Edinburgh Gazette of July 2005. I obtained a copy of this document in order to ascertain the extent of the amendments to the Royal Charter and to my astonishment found that no details of the terms of the amendments were given.

Members of the PPS including myself met with Nora Rundell, C.E.O. of the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust soon after discovering that a Supplemental Charter was being sought, and protested that this had happened without the people of Dunfermline being informed. The PPS group stressed their concerns that this development taken together with the drip feed of stories regarding the business school being built gave credence to a suspicion that the Royal Charter was being changed to facilitate commercial development in The Glen.

The C.E.O. of the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust would not give details of the changes to the Royal Charter but assured the PPS delegation that this was not the case. The Royal Charter we were told was simply being “tweaked” to bring it up to date with charitable legislation.

I was not reassured by the statements of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust C.E.O. and sought to elicit the terms of the amendments from the Privy Counsel Office. The P.C.O. refused to furnish any details of the terms of the amendments to the Royal Charter which had been approved by H.M. The Queen, and were awaiting the application of the Scottish Seal by the Scottish Executive.

I have written to your mother suggesting that either she has been let down by her Privy Counsellors or they themselves have been misled by a flawed application from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust. I have also petitioned the Scottish Executive asking them not to apply the Scottish Seal as its approval would fly in the face of the stated aims of the Executive—openness and transparency.

Since my actions have been reported in the local press the C.E.O. of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust has been quoted in the press, last week, (SEE <http://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/NewsFrameset.htm> ) as stating that unless The Glen attracts “sustainable economic benefits” by way of “commercial” investment in the form of the proposed £30 million Harvard-style business school or similar then the decline of The Glen would continue. She also stated that a lottery fund grant of £5 million which is being applied for by Fife Council would not be considered unless The Glen was “making money”.

These latest threats that The Glen must make money by commercial means taken together with the secretive petitioning to change their Royal Charter by The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust has brought forth a fresh upsurge of anger from local people who all have strong connections with the Glen as a place of leisure for the people—exactly what Andrew Carnegie intended it for!

Most of the people of Dunfermline see The Glen, not as a piece of real estate that can be sold or leased as the Trustees or the Fife Council see fit. The latest statement by the C.E.O. of the Trust has led to the Pittencrieff Park Support group stepping up its campaign of opposition to speculative building in the Glen.

By Sunday last, three thousand people had signed petitions in the following terms:

## **Business School YES, but not in the Glen**

We, the inheritors of Pittencrieff Glen and Park, given to us in 1903 by ANDREW CARNEGIE, petition the Trustees of the Glen to keep it intact and ask that neither business nor developers be allowed to spoil the tranquil and peaceful atmosphere.

Mr Carnegie’s intention in donating land and money was that Pittencrieff with its lovely glen, should be a recreation park for the adults and children of his home town.

If there has to be a new building within Pittencrieff let it be a MUSEUM for the people of Dunfermline, wherein young and old can learn to appreciate the heritage of our ancient city.

I have given you the background to secretive way that the Trust has changed a Royal Charter for your information only. I have made representations to Her Majesty on these matters and I am confident that she will consider them fully. I would however ask you to take an interest in the preservation of The Glen.

The Fife Council who maintain The Glen are responsible for the 10-year action plan that seeks to develop The Glen. Fife Council knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing. Another of their pearls of wisdom in the 10-year action plan is the filling-in and landscaping of the paddling pool in the Glen. This facility has brought much pleasure to children of the town, including myself, over the last hundred years but in the drive for cost savings (of possibly hundreds of pounds per annum) this feature is to be landscaped at an estimated cost of £17,000-£19,000. This is the economics of the madhouse.

Such penny-pinching attitudes that continually strive for cost savings at and the expense of the recreational benefits of The Glen have seen the facility become undermanned, leading to vandalism and anti-social behaviour, which perpetuates a downward spiral whereby people are loath to use The Glen.

The answer to anti-social behaviour say the Council is to bring in projects such as the much vaunted business school. But what happens if the business school is built and the vandals simply move to the next area of the Glen—do we build yet another commercial enterprise to move the problem again?

The answer is surely to fully develop the leisure and recreation facilities in The Glen, so that the people once again have a pride in them. This might involve creating gardening apprenticeships so that the idle hands that now spray paint and swig wine are gainfully occupied in gardening.

In conclusion I would stress that I am no woolly minded idealist. For 25 years I owned and operated my own engineering business in Fife and employed hundreds of youngsters from this area. The youth of today are basically good people who often need an interest to stimulate their talent. With a little effort and imagination The Glen might help to produce another young man or woman from Dunfermline who might emulate Andrew Carnegie.