



ST ANDREWS  
PRESERVATION TRUST

*Preserving the Past | Planning for the Future*

Graham Wynd  
Chair  
Poets' Neuk

27 October 2022

Dear Graham

The St Andrews Preservation Trust fully supports the Trustees of Poets' Neuk in their bid to exercise their Community Right to Buy the derelict plot of land at 1 Greyfriars Garden to further sustainable development, by transforming it into a public poetry garden for the benefit of residents of the town, visitors and the local community in general. It will provide a place of rest, contemplation and sensory impact in the centre of the Royal Burgh at a location where there are few public spaces for relaxation.

The planned public garden would be located on the site of the Greyfriars Monastery at one of the western entrances to the medieval town. Indeed, the lands to the west of the street currently named Greyfriars Garden (previously Bell's Street), between St Mary's Place and North Street, were originally known as Greyfriars Yards. The proposals for the garden include educational displays of the heritage significance of the site, providing a corresponding historical balance to the Blackfriars Chapel, which still stands in South Street.

It is entirely appropriate that a garden should be reinstated, as the St Andrews Town Council minute of 6<sup>th</sup> July 1836 records the decision that:

*"the west side of Bell's Street (now Greyfriars Garden) ... be feued to the Feuars on the east side as Gardens, prohibiting the building of houses thereon."*

St Andrews is a special town in Scotland, arguably unique. Indeed, in recognition of the need to protect the architecture and heritage of this medieval town, it was, until local government reorganisation in 1975, one of only two Small Burghs in Scotland to have planning powers.

The need to preserve the past, while planning for the future is under greater pressure than ever and the St Andrews Preservation Trust believes that a successful Community Right to Buy by the Poets' Neuk Trustees would provide entirely appropriate and sustainable redevelopment, while providing heritage protection to one small, but important, corner of the town.

Yours sincerely

  
David Strachan  
Chair, St Andrews Preservation Trust

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