

Mr Paul Sale  
[REDACTED]

Perthshire  
[REDACTED]

Jim Birrell  
[REDACTED]

Your Ref:

Our Ref: JB/CM/U.3.4

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010

Dear Mr Sale

**GARDEN GROUND AT 1 GREYFRIARS GARDENS, ST. ANDREWS**

I am writing to you to convey concerns which have been submitted to me by the St Andrews Community, Councillors and also some of the organisations within St Andrews including the St Andrews Preservation Trust relating to the untidy and unkempt condition of the garden at 1 Greyfriars Gardens.

I have had personal discussions and agreements on this particular garden area going back 15 years or more with previous owners as the condition of the garden has been a regular and recurring issue. I am sure you appreciate the prominent and key position occupied by the garden on this corner site set within the St Andrews Conservation Area which is an Outstanding Conservation Area. In previous years adverse comments have been made about the garden (and indeed other garden areas) from organisations considering awards for St Andrews in relation to Britain in Bloom etc.

With previous owners we have always been very clear in our planning advice in as much as the garden has no development value and there are no suitable development opportunities which would be compatible with the Development Plan. In addition we have explained the aspirations of Fife Council as Planning Authority to see the gardens at Greyfriars Gardens restored in a traditional and historic manner including railings and gates.

On many previous occasions the garden area has been cleaned and tidied up following requests but it has never been maintained in a permanent state of tidiness. I am also aware that individuals and local groups have periodically maintained the garden and removed debris etc. Again, as we have confirmed to previous owners, there are powers available to Fife Council to seek improvements to the amenity of the area and these include consideration of a Section 179 Notice

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under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, Maintenance Orders under the Housing (Scotland) Act and indeed the possible Compulsory Purchase of the land if it is felt that this is the only permanent solution. I also understand from meetings with local community groups that there is a real prospect of this famous garden (sight of the Greyfriars Chapel) being purchased for the benefit of the local community and turned in to a community garden or memorial garden or some such other suitable solution. This in the first instance would obviously be dependent upon the possible sale of the garden area by yourself rather than having to resort to any form of Compulsory Purchase.

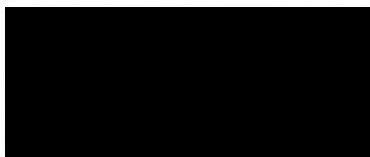
At this stage I am simply keen to explore all the available options and would like your full support in ensuring that the garden area is permanently maintained as a private garden area and kept tidy and private from open entry by the public.

The solution being put forward for timber boarding and fencing around the garden area above the wall is not considered to be a suitable treatment and the appropriate historical solution is to utilise metal railings and gates. This is a matter which is being picked up with other owners at Greyfriars Gardens with a view to total repair and restoration possibly as part of a joint scheme with other agencies as well as the individual owners.

I would be grateful at this stage to receive an early indication from you with regard to your intentions for the garden area and whether the possible sale of the garden area to a community group would be considered favourably by yourself.

I would be more than happy to arrange a meeting to take matters forward with you and your representatives before Fife Council considers any further formal action and I hope that this will be acceptable to you.

Yours sincerely



Jim Birrell  
Development Manager  
(Development & Regeneration)

C.C.

