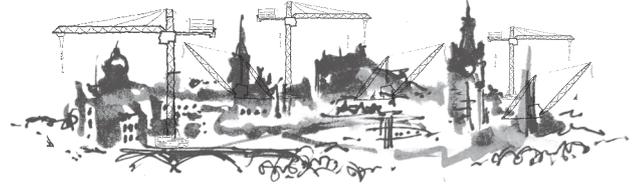


EDINBURGH

A Fragile Heritage



March 2014

Croquets Land, 93 West Bow
Grassmarket, Edinburgh
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Email: lachie@anta.co.uk

Dear Reader,

THE OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH are a cityscape of international importance. Not only are they one of the jewels of Scotland and Europe but the tourism they generate produces millions of pounds and sustains thousands of jobs. It seems unthinkable that this legacy should be under threat.

Yet Edinburgh today faces the greatest assault on its heritage since the failed Abercrombie plan of the late 1940s for massive city-centre redevelopment. A Council seemingly without a clue, a Planning Department without a clear plan and a developer motivated entirely by short-term financial gain are conspiring to tear apart the fabric of this great city. Recently, despite a petition signed by over 5,000 people in the space of only a few days, the City Planning Committee approved 'Caltongate': http://www.ama-ltd.co.uk/New_Street.html This massive stale, sterile modernist confection of concrete by a South African speculative developer which is completely at odds with its surroundings, is to be built in the heart of the Old Town, just a few hundred yards from the historic Canongate Kirk and Holyrood Palace.

One councillor who voted for the scheme declared it 'not hideous enough to oppose'. Opposed by every community group in the Old Town, its only confirmed tenants so far are a UK Pub chain and a Premier Inn.

Other utterly unsuitable developments are coming up for approval elsewhere and are increasingly eating into the fabric of this great city.

Edinburgh is not just our city – it is your and the world's heritage. We need your help now. Please give it by adding your signature to the following petition (click on the link below), in which we:

- call on the Council to halt by whatever means possible the Caltongate scheme
- call on the Scottish Parliament to intervene to save the city where the scheme will be situated
- register no confidence in the City Planning Department in its current form and membership
- call on all parties to put in place a clear and coherent development plan for the city which:

- preserves its heritage
- prevents development unsympathetic to surrounding architecture
- puts in place guidelines to produce developments sympathetic to the areas of the city in which they are placed
- provides affordable housing for local residents
- prevents speculative development.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-confidence-in-the-city-of-edinburgh-planning-department>

Two hundred years ago the legacy of our ancestors was the New Town of Edinburgh. Unless something is done urgently today's legacy will be Caltongate. How will our descendants 200 years hence judge us if it goes ahead?

Government bodies such as Historic Scotland have said nothing. Edinburgh World Heritage has been silenced by Council pressure. It is now up to the people of Edinburgh and their supporters to take the lead.

Please help us by signing up to our campaign and spreading the word to as many people as possible. Speed is vital. It is only with the support of thousands that we can save a unique part of the world's heritage from irreversible damage.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH ANDREW • WILLIAM BOYD • HUGH BUCHANAN • JOHN BYRNE • ARTEMIS
 COOPER • WILLIAM DALRYMPLE • LUCY ELLMANN • JANICE GALLOWAY •
 IAN JACK • JACKIE KAY • AL KENNEDY • ALEXANDER McCALL SMITH • AMANDA
 MACKENZIE STUART • TODD MCEWEN • CANDIA MCWILLIAM • ANDREW O'HAGAN •
 DON PATERSON • ROBIN ROBERTSON • JAMES SIMPSON • ALEXANDER STODDART
 LACHIE STEWART • IRVINE WELSH