

# INVERNESS CONCERN

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12TH. JANUARY HELD IN SPECTRUM CENTRE

PRESENT : Jess Maclennan, Joan Stewart, Grace Hainey, Chrissie Lacey, Carla Ure, Sheila Macdonald, Brian Mackenzie, Vivian Moir, Cllr. Richard Laird, James Maxwell

APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Kerr, Cllr.J Campbell, Monica Macdonald, Kay Maclennan

Chair introduced guest speaker Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman of Civic Trust

Mr.Maxwell talked about the student hubs and the Glebe St. site under discussion for development. The student hub 1st. Phase was now in use and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Phase awaiting planning decision. He thought planning policies did not have forward looking ideas for Inverness and 20 to 40 years ahead. Structures were not in keeping with other city buildings, neither in materials or design. The design review panel should give more advice to applicants and planning policies should be made by Highland Council in advance. Mr. Maxwell disapproved of the modern design for the proposed flats at Glebe St. The height would clash with Friar St. bridge and the layout could also affect residents of ground floor flats because of flood prevention scheme. Flat roofs were unattractive but could be used as garden areas. Bricks as building material he did not think acceptable.

Various questions were then put to Mr. Maxwell about his talk.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved J.Maclennan 2<sup>nd</sup>ed C.Lacey

### MATTERS ARISING:

Pat Haydn declined to send representative from Crown and city centre C.C. To I.C. Meetings.

Cllr. Laird reported things are starting to happen with station revamp.

City centre empty homes fund.....Cllr. Laird stated that it was difficult to initiate as spaces were not taken up by landlords because of upheaval and potential hassle.

### UPDATE CITY CENTRE

General discussion ensued regarding bus routes,taxis,the railway station and city centre anti social behaviour.

Cllr. Laird reported that closing all public toilets was being considered by the Council.

Chair mentioned the new cladding for the museum building being proposed.

Charley Barbour in the news and wants to set up a task force to improve city centre.

I

A O C B

Malcolm Macloud from Council planning dept.to speak at next meeting on Abellio and revamp of station.

DATE AND TIME NEXT MEETING:- Tues. 8<sup>th</sup>. March at 7.30. Spectrum Centre