

Cllr Ruth Simpson
Executive Member for Land and Environment
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow G2 1DU

15 June 2007

Dear Cllr Simpson

Lease of Glasgow Botanic Gardens Station

I have received representations from Hillhead Community Council in respect of proposals for the ninety nine year lease of the Botanic Gardens Station for commercial development.

While the Botanic Gardens are situated within the constituency of my colleague, Bill Butler, Member for Glasgow Anniesland, I do share the concern of Hillhead Community Council about the limited consultation in advance of these plans being brought forward. I have worked closely with local community councillors, other representatives and members of the City Licensing Board to raise the concerns of many residents in the West End in relation to the expanding number and nature of licensed premises in the local area.

I am aware that the Community Council and others have also raised wider concerns about the leasing of parks land for long term commercial use, and given the variety of views which exist on the subject I would have thought that the City Council would have been more keen to engage extensively with the users and neighbours of the Botanic Gardens on any proposals for the future development of the Botanic Gardens Station site.

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I would be grateful if you could ensure that the Community Council is contacted with a view to wider discussion.

Yours sincerely

Pauline McNeill MSP
Glasgow Kelvin

cc: Mr Bill Butler MSP, Glasgow Anniesland

Cllr Mohammed Razaq JP, Ward 15 (Maryhill / Kelvin)

Cllr Robert Winter, Ward 15 (Maryhill / Kelvin)

Jean Charsley, Chairperson - Hillhead Community Council

Baillie Hanzala Malik JP, Ward 11 (Hillhead)

Cllr George Ryan
Executive Member for Development and Regeneration
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow G2 1DU

16 November 2007

Dear Councillor Ryan

Proposed Ninety-Nine Year Lease of Glasgow Botanic Gardens Station

Further to our recent conversations on a proposed ninety-nine year lease of land to G1 Group for the purpose of developing a nightclub at the former Glasgow Botanic Gardens Station, I write to confirm my objections.

A ninety-nine year lease of public land for this purpose is entirely inappropriate in the setting of the Botanic Gardens, the proposed lease makes no financial sense for the local authority and the proposed development itself faces widespread and understandable public opposition from the local community, not just because of the lack of consultation, but also because of the detrimental impact which yet another nightclub in a residential area would undoubtedly have.

As you know, serious questions have also been raised in relation to development on the railway and encroachment onto Common Good land. I know that you and other councillors share many of the concerns which I have been articulating about the proposal and I am grateful for your careful consideration of this matter. On behalf of all who enjoy Glasgow Botanic Gardens and the many neighbours of the site, whom I represent, I hope that you will reject any notion of an unprecedented ninety-nine year lease.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Pauline McNeill MSP
Glasgow Kelvin

cc: Bailie Hanzala Malik JP, Ward 11 (Hillhead)
Bill Butler MSP, Glasgow Anniesland
Patricia Ferguson MSP, Glasgow Maryhill
Ann McKechin MP, Glasgow North