

From: Bob Stewart [mailto:stewarr@moray.gsx.gov.uk]
Sent: 15 October 2009 15:17
To: MacSween A (Ann)
Subject: RE: Duty to Notify Pilot

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BELOW ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND SHOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE MORAY COUNCIL

[Ann, my first thoughts are attached. sorry if they are not particularly well marshalled but it may provide some issues for discussion. Hope that helps, Bob](#)

Following the recent introduction of changes in Development Management officers will be operating in a New World.

Smaller scale applications will come before officials for decisions with any appeal being to a Local Review Panel. Major applications go before a Planning Committee with any Appeal being to the DPEA. Appeals relating to Listed Building Consent still go before the DPEA.

Alterations to C class Listed Buildings no longer need to be referred to HS and at National level there is a wish to "draw back" from National involvement leaving the resolution of local issues to local decision makers.

The criteria for Listing is decided at National level

The decision to List or not to List is a National one (the spectre of Prestonpans comes to mind)

The resources and expertise available to Planning Authorities varies enormously.

The recognition of the importance of Listing varies from individual councillor to individual councillor.

In their decision making Committees will reflect all sorts of local issues.

In my experience attitude will be affected on the opportunities available to attract investment. My concern is that Perth, Glasgow and Edinburgh would fall into the "easier to attract investment" category as opposed to say "the Western Isles", or parts of the Highlands where attitudes may well differ.

So how can we ensure that the stewardship implied by Listing is exercised reasonably?

- It requires the up stream work we have talked about.
- we must ensure that each Local Plan recognises the importance of the Historic built environment. Where there is a Structure Plan this should also recognise the contribution made by the Historic Built Environment.
- I am tempted to suggest it must include a justification and character assessment of individual conservation areas.
- It must involve education of those involved in decision-making – including Councillors. They come from a variety of backgrounds.
- By their very designation delegation should exclude A listing and Scheduled Monuments. These are National Treasures.
- Yes decisions should be monitored and there should be a means of referring a series of contrary decisions to the Audit Commission for examination. How else will the public be assured on consistent decision making and Best Value?