

Leisure Services
Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3ZP

Community Services

Director
Graeme Marwick

Midlothian

21 October 2005

Mr Hipkin

Dear Mr Hipkin

Penicuik Town Hall

Thank you for your recent e-mail. You are correct in that a presentation will be made to Wren representative on November 2nd.

In respect of the case I made to Wren on behalf of the Council, this focussed on a refurbishing and revitalising programme for the Town Hall to create new facilities to enhance the facility. I indicated that if successful this would extend existing accessibility for local groups and organisations and that it was hoped that further theatre and musical events could also result. Finally I indicated that subject to resource considerations a local history heritage centre and public information point would be considered.

I note the valuable material you have available which will become particularly important should this application be successful. However my presentation to Wren will be based on the future benefits not our past successes.

I also note your offer to assist in making the case and suggesting a meeting to talk about how best to put the case forward. I must advise that I have already notified Wren that the presentation will be led by and delivered by myself, supported by a colleague and an elected Councillor. **I do not expect assistance from outwith the Council.** My colleague Tony Malone has already provided me with information on current usage at the Town Hall and other colleagues have advised me on use and demand elsewhere throughout Penicuik. Additionally **I have to re-emphasise comment previously made by my Chief Executive that the Town Hall is not being considered in isolation but as part of the Councils overall Asset Management deliberations.**

Finally Wren advise that they are particularly interested in sustainability and contingency issues which I believe only the Council can address. In view of this I am not sure a meeting would add much to the detailed information I have already received from you both in person and electronically.

It may be that you would wish to make a written statement of your support but you must be aware the presentation I have been asked for is of 500 words and therefore does not allow for much added input.

In respect of the Architect, I have not contacted him and am unlikely to do so until we progress to the next round if successful. The Councils own professional architects will also be involved.

I accept without question your comments regarding our agreement and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Charles Galbraith
Head of Community Development
Charles.Galbraith@midlothian.gov.uk