



## FRIENDS OF SEAFIELD HOUSE

### **FRIENDS OF SEAFIELD HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING**

**Friday 11 October 2013, 12:30 – 13:30**

**The Old Racecourse Hotel, 2 Victoria Park, Ayr KA7 2TR**

#### **Report on Proceedings**

Friends of Seafield House (FoSH) held a Public Meeting on Friday 11 October 2013 at The Old Racecourse Hotel in Ayr to give an update on the campaign to SAVE Seafield House, including to report on the launch of a new marketing campaign by NHS Ayrshire & Arran through its selling agent Ryden for the restoration of Seafield House by way of sensitive enabling development in the extensive grounds. The meeting was attended by local residents as a result of FoSH leafleting & emails and by members of the public who had read of the meeting in the local media. Chic Brodie MSP also attended.

FoSH Chair, Rob Close, welcomed those who attended the meeting and passed over to Patrick Lorimer, the FoSH Architectural Adviser who reported on the Developers' Open Day for Seafield House that NHS Ayrshire & Arran held in Ayr on 16 September at the Savoy Park Hotel as part of its new marketing campaign to sell Seafield House. Patrick reported that FoSH Vice Chair, Fiona Walker, & Secretary, Lianne Hackett had represented FoSH on the day & noted that FoSH was delighted to have the support of Clem Cecil, Director of SAVE Britain's Heritage and Sheila Penny, Secretary of Kyle & Carrick Civic Society.

There followed an illustrated presentation by FoSH Committee member, Brian Williamson, on Seafield House. Kirsty Menzies, FoSH Committee Member & Arrol relative then gave a report on the James Watt Dinner 2013, which she had attended in Glasgow on 4 October together with FoSH Chair, Rob Close, FoSH Secretary, Lianne Hackett & FoSH Friends at which the 2013 inductees to the Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame were announced. She said how delighted she is – particularly following FoSH nominations in the public vote - that the judging panel decided to induct Sir William Arrol as one of four inductees for 2013. Please see the link below: <http://www.engineeringhalloffame.org/profile-arrol.html>

Kirsty's report was followed by a Q&A session. Questions included on developer intent for the site. Patrick Lorimer replied that we understand the enabling development will be for a number of appropriately sized & sited houses in the grounds (we understand below 10), not a flatted development (as at the former Gartferry Hotel, for example). Suggestions & ideas were received from local residents and a member of the public provided an update on the fire that was caused by arson in 2008 that so damaged the building. FoSH will follow up on this new information.

The Secretary then took membership requests & renewals.

*FoSH thanks The Old Racecourse Hotel for providing the room & tea/coffee at no charge*

FoSH welcomes new members. Please visit our website [www.friends-of-seafield-house.org.uk](http://www.friends-of-seafield-house.org.uk) or contact the Secretary on [info@friends-of-seafield-house.org.uk](mailto:info@friends-of-seafield-house.org.uk)