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**Alan Caldwell
Secretary, CDT**

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Wednesday 18th July 07

Dear Alan

I will endeavour to phone you on Thursday, tomorrow, as you ask.

While I appreciate the large amount of work that you do on behalf of the Comrie Development Trust (CDT), I regret that I have to formally express my mounting concern at some of the procedures - or lack of them - that are being followed by the Trust.

I believe I have indicated my concerns to you before, but the same unacceptable practices continue. These were clear to see at the last meeting of the CDT membership held in the White Church 25th June 2007. Where large amounts of money from the public purse are involved, it is important that proper procedures are followed, and not adapted for the purpose of improper marketing, or what is commonly referred to as "hype".

Specifically, i have previously complained to you in unambiguous terms that it is not acceptable for the Consultants, with the agreement of the CDT Board, to publish in the public domain proposals for the future development of the Camp that involve major disruption to the farm, without first getting agreement from the farm that such proposals can go into the public domain. You appeared to be unconcerned about my complaint, so I wrote to the press in the form of a letter to the Strathearn Herald.

But at the meeting of the CDT membership on 25th June, the Consultants were at it again, putting forward suggestions that could have a major damaging affect on Cultybraggan Farm. This was clearly part of a marketing campaign to get the CDT members enthusiastic about what they could do with the Camp should they be successful in buying it. The Chairmanship of the meeting was improper in that he did not allow any comments to be made on the Consultants presentation until right at the end of the meeting, after he had gone around asking people at separate tables what they thought. Only at the very end of the meeting - just before it closed- did he allow any comment that might criticise what the Consultant had presented. The

Chairman is an experienced chairman. His actions were based on manipulation of the meeting rather than on ignorance.

I had previously expressed my disappointment to the Consultants with regard to the way they were treating the farm, but obviously they ignored my concerns. I believe their actions are unacceptably devious, trying to persuade the CDT membership with unfounded suggestions that were likely to raise unjustified expectations in the community for their own commercial purposes: i.e. to get the next phase of the contract.

At previous meetings of the CDT membership, there appeared to be no proper minutes taken. Instead a somewhat hyped up report from yourself was circulated by yourself. And so it was again following the meeting on 25th June.

For all the profuse assurances that everyone could have their say, it was appalling to observe how members of the CDT Board responded to Ian Thomas' concerns over a perceived conflict of interests. From reading Ian Thomas' email, he claims that he did talk in person to CDT Board members about his concerns, and indeed he formally met with them. He did say to the Board members that he was not satisfied with their replies. I therefore fail to see why he should have been so criticised by the CDT Board for circulating these concerns to the CDT membership . What I also found seriously unacceptable, was that the report of the meeting severely criticised him for not talking to the CDT board members before hand - which he obviously did.

In summery, I believe that there have been serious lapses in the integrity with which the CDT Board and the Consultants have been operating in their enthusiasm to get the people of Comrie to vote the way the Board wants them to.

If the Highland and Islands Enterprise adviser is attending CDT meetings to give them provenance, then his silence on these matters would suggest that he is not doing his job..

If the CDT intend to conduct business with the Farm that surrounds the property they wish to buy, then it is essential that they operate with transparent integrity. This is especially so, as I understand that the Consultants will not be coming up with a business plan until about one week before the closing date for buying the property. There would be essentially no opportunity for members of the CDT to scrutinise their proposals.

Suggestions were made by members of the CDT that the property should be bought with the purpose of profiting from land speculation: i.e. selling it on later at a substantial profit. It would have been informative if the Highland and Islands adviser, or someone could have explained what was in and what was outwith the spirit of the legislation relevant to Community Right to Buy.

I find the process that has been followed whereby only at this very late date, are some of the most basic questions being asked as to what can be done with the property in real - rather than totally imaginary - terms.

It is very difficult to see how anyone can do serious business with an organisation whose integrity is in question and whose business organisation seems to be chaotic.

There are a large number of CDT Board members. Surely one of them could please respond to the points that I have made above, and in emails to CDT Chairperson on 12th and 14th July - at an early date.

Attached for your convenience are copies of the emails I sent to the Chairperson of CDT on 12th and 14th July.

Yours sincerely

James