

What next?

- **Make a formal comment on the applications** - see below for sample objections
- **Contact your councillors, MSPs and MPs.** Remember that the final decision will not be made by planners but most likely by politicians locally or nationally. Copy us into any correspondence!
- **Keep in contact with the AHSS** - leave your details/business card at the desk at the door, or contact us on the details below
- **Join as a member or donate to the AHSS Forth & Borders Group & Cockburn Association campaign funds** - at the desk at the door as you leave.

Material objections based on planning policy: you can use these to form your own letter of objection:

- The design fails to draw upon positive characteristics of the surrounding area. (Contrary to policy DES 1)
- The design and form of the proposed buildings are not compatible with the character of the existing building, and would both dominate and detract from it. (Contrary to policy DES 11)
- The scale of the proposals will have a negative impact on the setting, blocking key views of Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School, the Nelson Monument and the landscape of Calton Hill, which is protected by statute. (Contrary to policies ENV 3 & ENV 7)
- The demolition of the 1885 lodge, which enhances the approach to the high school is a serious loss. (Contrary to policy ENV 2)
- The proposals block key views of the school and of neighbouring buildings, and views from within the site to the city and the Holyrood Park, damaging the building's setting and sense of place. (Contrary to policy DES 10)
- The proposals fail to distinguish between public and private spaces, with many of the supposedly 'public' spaces being of a specific and exclusive commercial nature. This is not appropriate in such a prominent public building. (Contrary to policy DES 3)
- The hotel wings are detrimental to the skyline and townscape, as they rise above the topography that defines the character of Calton Hill, and are taller than Thomas Hamilton's building. (Contrary to policy DES 10)
- The proposals harm neighbourhood amenity and character, and change the cultural value from a civic to a commercial aesthetic. (Contrary to policy DES 11)
- The proposals breach Policy ENV 1 because of their impact on a key part of the World Heritage Site.
- Proposed interventions to the portico and the east pavilion would damage important historic fabric. (Contrary to policy ENV 4)
- The proposals neither preserve nor enhance the special character of the conservation area. (Contrary to policy ENV 6)
- The proposals obliterate significant portions of vegetation, boundary walls and railings that define the character and setting of a listed building and a conservation area. (Contrary to policy ENV 6)

The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland - www.ahss.org.uk

The Society originated from a group formed in 1956 and became the Scottish Georgian Society in 1959. The present name was adopted in 1984 to reflect the broader scope of the Society's activities.

The AHSS is committed to encouraging public understanding and appreciation of Scotland's historic built environment, and we work across Scotland to support the protection, preservation, restoration and regeneration of historic buildings, their settings, towns and landscapes. We have six regional groups across Scotland.

The Cockburn Association - www.cockburbassociation.org.uk

The Cockburn Association is a 140 year old Scottish Charity (SC011544) which works to promote the conservation and enhancement of Edinburgh's landscape and historic and architectural heritage, and encourage high quality contemporary design for buildings that blend with and enhance their surroundings. Founded in 1875, it is named after the late Lord Henry Cockburn (1779-1854) who campaigned to protect and enhance the beauty of Edinburgh.