



# East Lothian Council

Our Ref : TWS/JMcN  
Direct Line : 01620 827560

Monica Patterson  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

1 February 2011

Petitions Committee Clerk  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

9-11 Lodge Street  
Haddington  
East Lothian  
EH41 3DX  
Tel 01620 826600  
Fax 01620 824295

Dear Sir/Madam

## PETITION REFERENCE 1387

I have been instructed by East Lothian Council's Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Ruth Currie, to bring to the attention of the Public Petitions Committee an inaccuracy that appears in Petition Reference PE1387, submitted on 12 January 2011 and considered by the Committee on 25 January 2011. The Petition called on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide financial support for the creation of a permanent Interpretation and Education Centre close to the site of the Battle of Prestonpans – at Prestongrange Heritage Museum.

An inaccuracy in the text has come to the attention of East Lothian Council; this appears in the final paragraph of the section entitled "Specific Request," which reads "*East Lothian Council has agreed to donate the Bath House building and land for the Tapestry Pavilion on the museum site and will raise the necessary funds for the restoration of the remaining museum structures.*" This statement is incorrect, in that East Lothian Council has made no decision to donate the Bath House or any landholding to the Trust for the Trust's purposes and, indeed, is not in a position to donate land to any Third Party. The Council has also not committed funds, nor has formally committed to raise the necessary funds for the restoration of the remaining museum structures on the site.

For the purposes of clarity, East Lothian Council does have ambitions for the Prestongrange site and very much welcomes the initiative and ambition of The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust. It is hoped that the Council and the Trust will be able to work together in taking forward a shared objective and ambition for the site and we look forward to working in partnership with the Trust to achieve the respective aims of both organisations. However, the specific wording in the paragraph referring to the donation of assets and commitment to raise funds is incorrect and cannot be accepted by the Council.

I would be grateful if the Public Petitions Committee can be made aware of this error and arrangements made to either strike that paragraph from the Petition or replace it with appropriate wording to more accurately reflect a spirit of partnership between the Council and the Trust in progressing the project's aims and objectives.

The Council's concern has been brought to the attention of The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust and, of course, it will be for the Trust to amend the wording accordingly. In the meantime, we consider it important that the inaccuracy is brought to your attention.

Yours faithfully

Tom Shearer  
Head of Community Wellbeing

cc: Councillor Ruth Currie, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing  
Kristine Cunningham, The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust  
Jill Mackay, Media Manager