

The Scottish Parliament

HOLYROOD BUILDING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER NO 2
FEBRUARY 2000

MESSAGE FROM SIR DAVID STEEL, PRESIDING OFFICER, THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

“As this is the first newsletter of the new century I would like to take this opportunity to wish readers the very best of health and prosperity for the coming year. Although the Parliament was set up only last May the day to day operations are working well, even allowing for the dispersed nature of the buildings we temporarily occupy. And we are getting down to the serious business of debate and decision making.

The new century brings with it exciting times not least in the construction of the country’s most important building for several hundreds of years. When Holyrood is built and occupied it will become the established home for the Parliament and the permanent symbol of our new legislature. The construction of any new public building brings with it criticisms over its location, cost and design, and the Holyrood project is no different in this respect. As you will probably be

aware from recent press reports there has been a great deal of speculation about Queensberry House. I can assure you that there are no plans to demolish this historic building. On the contrary we plan greatly to improve the appearance of this prestigious house.

I very much welcomed the creation of this newsletter which, in tandem with pages on the Parliament’s Website (www.scottish.parliament.uk), aims to keep local residents and organisations informed of progress on all aspects of the project. The opening of an on-site exhibition and viewing gallery in the coming months, coupled with our existing displays in the Parliament’s Visitor Centre on George IV Bridge, will also keep everyone informed.

The physical construction of the new Parliament building is well under way under the control of Bovis our Construction Managers. While I can appreciate the disruption the local community has experienced with the many different projects that have been undertaken in recent times, I hope that you can bear with us for a bit longer as the new Parliament building is constructed. I am sure that at the end of the day it will be of much benefit to the whole area. I know that Bovis will strive to keep any disturbance to an absolute minimum but there is a contact number at the foot of this newsletter to which queries on site activities can be directed.

I can assure you that the Scottish Parliament will maintain a keen interest in the project during its construction phase and beyond to ensure that we have a quality building of which we can all be proud and that value for money is achieved at every opportunity.”



The Holyrood Building Project newsletter is aimed at residents in the Holyrood and surrounding areas. Newsletters will cover a variety of topics of interest to residents, keeping you informed of developments and progress on site.

RESIDENTS' MEETINGS

Since the first newsletter was issued in October 1999 the Project Team has held meetings with the residents of the Canongate



Construction in progress December 1999

whose properties border the site, and also with a group of representatives from local residents' associations. These meetings proved useful to all parties and both groups will meet again in the spring.



View of the site December 1999

TRANSPORT

As part of the process of improving accessibility to the new Parliament complex at Holyrood several studies have been undertaken examining the key issues and proposing the implementation of various schemes. The studies were required as part of the Planning process and to ensure that the Parliament complex was accessible to all.

The studies cover:

Strategic Access to Holyrood – This covers how people arriving in the city centre will access the Holyrood area. The possibilities include improved bus service, parliamentary hopper bus and the formation of quality walking routes.

Traffic Impact Analysis – As part of the proposals for the new Parliament, Holyrood Road will be closed to vehicular traffic from approximately the junction at Reid's Close to Horse Wynd. It was therefore essential that a study of the resultant impact on traffic across Edinburgh was carried out. Computer modelling was undertaken which concluded that the natural movement of the traffic across the city was largely unaffected by the closure of Holyrood Road as drivers found alternative routes.

As part of the City of Edinburgh Council's Strategy to encourage the use of public transport, improvements to a number of junctions have been agreed to be undertaken. The junctions are those which the Traffic Impact Analysis highlighted would have an increased traffic volume.

The landscaping proposals for the Parliament will provide a pedestrian-friendly environment and improved access to Holyrood Park. Horse Wynd will form the main public entrance to the Parliament. Traffic calming will be incorporated through the use of street furniture and bollards to help provide an attractive open piazza style public area.

SITE HOARDINGS

You will no doubt by now be aware of the decoration of the site hoarding with children's



Hoardings on Canongate

artwork, which was unveiled by the Presiding Officer, Sir David Steel, last October. In May of last year all Primary 6 children throughout Scotland were invited to submit a self portrait, and out of the 2,400 schools approached a total of 1,442 entries were received. Children from the Royal Mile Primary school, who had taken part in the exercise, were invited to join the Presiding Officer for the launch, and were



Sir David Steel with pupils from Royal Mile primary school

delighted to be presented with a signed copy of their class entry. The artwork will be displayed on the hoarding for the duration of the project, and positive feedback has already been received both from participants and visitors to the site.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT WEBSITE – www.scottish.parliament.uk



The Scottish Parliament website contains pages devoted to the Holyrood Project, entitled 'The Parliament Buildings'. Information on all aspects of the building is regularly updated.

The Temporary Home

Contains information on the temporary office accommodation on George IV Bridge and the debating chamber in the General Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland at the top of the Mound.

Who is Where

Information on the location of Parliament staff within the temporary accommodation

Holyrood Site

The site selection process, archaeology, demolition, history of the site, location, transport and access.

Holyrood Design

The selection of the Design Team and the evolution of the design. Also contains information on environment and access issues.

Holyrood Building

Contains information on the Building User Brief and the construction of the building

Notice Board

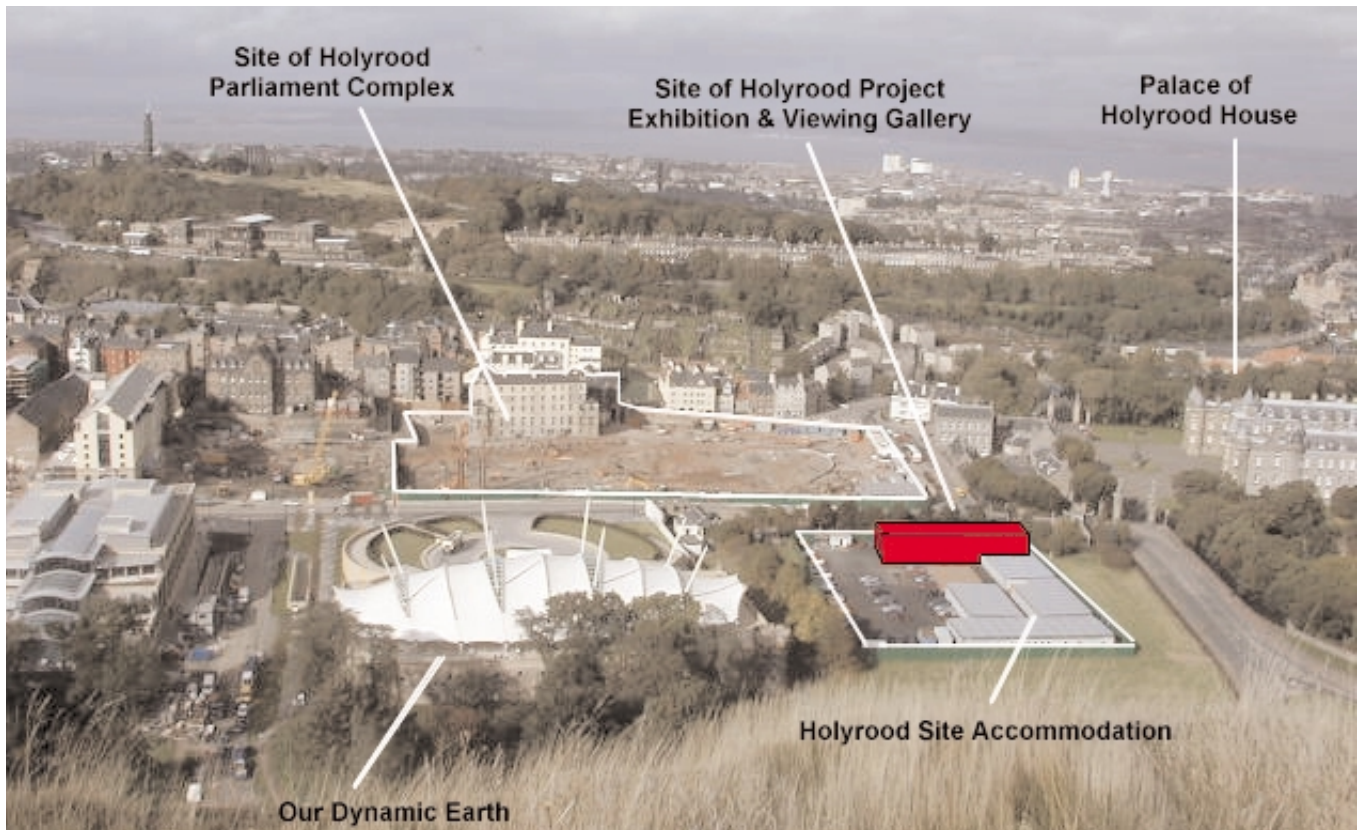
Current information on the building, and events taking place

Project in Pictures

Photographs of the site from selection to the present day

Interim Report to MSPs

Copies of reports to MSPs



The site for HPT office accommodation and viewing gallery

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

In February the Holyrood Project Team will be re-locating from offices at 375 High Street to the site accommodation at the foot of Holyrood Road. Telephone and fax numbers will remain unchanged.

The new site accommodation will eventually incorporate an exhibition and viewing gallery, which will enable the public to view construction safely. We hope that this facility will be completed in the spring. More information on this will be provided in the next newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION

It is our intention to produce newsletters on a bi-monthly basis although this will depend on the amount of information available. However we recognise that you may have specific questions on the project. **Any queries on site related aspects of this project should be directed to Bovis Construction on 0131 472 7100. Other general queries should initially be directed to Vicky O'Donnell or Shona Montgomery of the Project Team on 0131 348 6524 or 0131 348 6525.**



*HPT office accommodation under construction
February 2000*