

In response to the comments made against our appeals for no4 and 14 The Broch, Monart Road, I would like the following response taken into consideration.

1. Before making application for all the apartments within Deans Retreats we consulted Sean Panton, Planning Department on more than 1 occasion regarding the communal doors. He categorically told us this would not come into consideration with our applications as this regulation was not coming into effect until November. On this advice we applied for planning permission for the 8 premises. 6 have communal doors.
2. After having 4 out of the 8 apartments refused planning permission, I spoke to John Coonie at great length regarding the frustrations of the decisions of the department as I could not see any consistency in their decision making. Identical premises have been granted planning permission within Needless Road, High Street, Gleneagles Village, Feus Road and other residential areas in Auchterarder and Perth. John told me he would never give me bad advice and advised me to appeal. On this advice we applied for the licences and appealed. To date we have paid £6800 to Perth and Kinross on the advice from Perth and Kinross Council. Had we been told the communal doors would have been a factor we would never have spent this amount of money. 4 out of the 8 were refused, 2 of the apartments accepted had communal doors, the 4 rejected have communal doors, a reason listed for the refusal.
3. Deans Retreats has been running for over 5 years without the intervention of the police due to any inappropriate behaviour from guests. The council commended us on how well we had equipped the apartments with security equipment which helps keep our apartments trouble free and gives residents peace and we were told they used our apartments as a bench mark for other applications. We do not run party apartments. Perth and Kinross also featured Knowhead Penthouse, which is in a building which was designed to house holiday apartments, as stated in the title deeds, in their summer magazine to promote accommodation in Perth, yet it has been denied planning permission for the very reason it was built. Deans Retreats has a huge database which is used to promote events in Perth and Kinross. We also promote shops, attractions and eateries in and around Perth for our guest to visit.
4. Mr Wallace moved into The Broch fully aware there were 2 short term lets, his attitude was "live and let live", he was always very chatty until recently. The laundry was left in an unused corner of the stairwell for the cleaner to pick up the same day, where it was moved into the apartments. The other 2 complainants, I have never met, nor have they made their selves known to me. My contact details are held by the committee and yet no one has ever contacted me personally regarding any grievance with any guest in the 5 years we have owned accommodation in The Broch.
5. We have been told we could continue to trade until a final decision has been made.
6. Since missing the deadline for the appeal on No1 Monart Road we have started to close down the reservations. We have a lot of repeat guests who visit Perth regularly for work, race meetings, family gatherings and other social events on the Perth calendar. Many of them have stated how disappointed they are as good quality; affordable accommodation is difficult to find in Perth. The Queens, The Station, The County, The Waverly Hotels are now all out of use for guest accommodation.

I hope you can look at Deans Retreats as a well-run asset to Perth City, it is not a quick fix to money making, indeed 3 of the apartments are not in profit yet as it takes a lot of money to set the apartments up initially. We are very proud of Deans Retreats and as you will see if you look on the booking platforms we use they are all highly rated with very good positive reviews.

Yours sincerely  
Margo Deans