

Bunker plan sunk as old oak trees are saved

Councillors yesterday agreed to "spare that tree" when they rejected an application from Tayside Regional Council for conversion of a disused reservoir at Baldinnie Dam, near Coupar Angus, into a regional emergency control centre.

Plans before Perth and Kinross development control committee called for a security fence around the site and a 20-metre telecommunications mast.

Planning director Mr David Penman reported a number of mature oaks lie within two metres of the building and their canopies cover the roof. Eight are involved "and are to be removed."

Councillor Brian Scotland pointed out the Regional Structure Plan is against the character of rural areas being affected by planning, and said this seemed to be the equivalent of an office block being built in a country area.

He pointed out that the region had also decided the matter was not of "regional significance."

The committee unanimously approved plans for the 17 houses on the former playing field at Nellfield Road, Crieff, for Mowlem (Scotland) Ltd.

The application was approved following changes in the proposed layout, and despite a letter of objection from a neighbouring proprietor, who felt one of the proposed houses was too close.

Mr Penman told the committee the nearest house was seven metres from the objector's boundary wall, and 19 metres from his house.

The committee also approved change of use from auction rooms to a nightspot, including function suite, restaurant and cocktail bar, at 40-48 Canal Street.

It was felt the site was ideal for such a development, being central, adjacent to car parking, and not too near residential developments.

Plan tangled

Leisure plan for Perth hotel

A new swimming pool/leisure complex with exhibition and other facilities could put Perth on the conference map.

An application to expand and extend the Queen's Hotel was looked on favourably yesterday by Perth and Kinross District development control committee.

They approved the application provided the development is started within five years and that building materials are approved by the council.

The plan envisages a new extension to house a swimming pool and gymnasium with additional lounge area at ground floor level.

At first floor level a conference and exhibition suite would be built with the remaining floors providing a new recep-

tion, without planning permission, altered the roof pitch and inserted windows at first-floor level on a new house.

A report before the committee said that when permission had been granted it was on condition the building be limited to single storey development.

However it was felt loss of amenity or privacy to nearby properties was minimal due to the change.

The committee agreed the window on the eastern gable should have frosted glass and the other one was acceptable.