

# Otago No-Go

## **Kelvin MSP Pauline McNeill brands Otago Lane development ‘insanity’**

The livelihoods of small business owners in the West End are under threat from a proposed vast residential development. Otago Lane boasts popular and unique venues and shops including a tea house, clockmaker and record shop which contribute greatly to the distinctive appeal of the West End. However, following an application to build a 9 storey block of flats in the lane, these vital businesses are being put at serious risk of closure due to restricted access.

Concerned residents are also anxious that such a development would be of great detriment to the local character and identity of Otago Lane and its unique bohemian atmosphere. A further concern is the loss of the lane’s surrounding green space, the use of which will be lost should this development go ahead. Developers plan to build this housing without any parking for prospective residents, leading many to fear that substantial pressure will be placed on already limited parking spaces.

Opposition to the plans has been great and far reaching. A national petition has gathered 1,000 signatures already, while an online Facebook petition group has similarly garnered much support.

Labour MSP Pauline McNeill has spoken out against the plans stating:

“These plans are not appropriate for the size and outlay of Otago Lane. This development is not necessary when there is already so much residential development being undertaken in the West End.”

“We should be protecting our community and local businesses instead of encouraging vast commercial developments which will erode our green space and severely infringe upon the lives of the current residents”

The application is currently being considered by Glasgow City Council.