

APPENDIX 4

Objection to Application to stage a Parade/March through Dunkeld on 18 August

I wish to lodge an objection to the holding of this March through the streets of Dunkeld. My objection has three related elements - historical, religious and cultural.

Historically, the Orange Order did not come into existence until 1798, according to a publication produced to celebrate its bicentenary - more than one hundred years after the Battle of Dunkeld, in 1689. Similarly, this March has only come into existence within the last 10 years. A regular service to mark the battle and the stand made by Colonel Cleland and his men, has taken place within the Cathedral for considerably longer. The few remaining members of the Cameronian regiment attend this service and lay a wreath at Colonel Cleland's grave at its end. This service has enjoyed the support of the whole community. It is a simple service which commemorates the victory, but also the losses on both sides.

By contrast, the March now convened under the auspices of the Orange Order presents as a conspicuous celebration of Orangeism, with Orange regalia on display and few participants recognisable as citizens of Dunkeld. The Committee might wish to acquaint themselves with the views of those remaining members of the Cameronian regiment on the appropriateness of this March/Parade. Of the many citizens of Dunkeld with whom I have discussed the Orange March, I have yet to find one who supports it

The religious element of this objection concerns the narrow, exclusive outlook of the Orange Order when contrasted with that of Dunkeld's three churches. I would refer the Committee to the following excerpts from that same publication produced to mark the bicentenary of the Orange Order :

1. "...he should strenuously oppose the fatal errors and doctrines of the Church of Rome, and scrupulously avoid countenancing (by his presence or otherwise)any act or ceremony of Popish worship.."
2. "Thus a Unitarian, Mormon, Spiritualist or Atheist can no more be an Orangeman than can a Papist."
3. " We will not be travelling backwards with any ecumenical bandwagon into superstition and idolatory (sic)."

Contrast this with Dunkeld's three churches - Roman Catholic, Scottish Episcopalian and Church of Scotland - and their shared approach to fund raising, supporting each others' events and occasional shared services. This is an ecumenical church community with an ecumenical outlook on life - the antithesis of the views propounded above.

Culturally, Dunkeld is a town where religious and ethnic difference are of little consequence and where political difference does not divide. The religious differences of 1689 have been left there. Tolerance and cooperation are now her watchwords. Could the same be said of the Orange Order ?

The right to March should be balanced against the right of this community not to have regalia associated with such extreme views paraded through her town.

Yours sincerely ,

John Gilruth, [REDACTED]