



shows what could be done at the city council-owned former Royal High School.

Owner of crumbling landmark in appeal over CPO

THE owners of a crumbling landmark building in central Glasgow have called on the city council to review a "flawed" Compulsory Purchase Order made in the 1990s.

Co-owner Derek Souter, of Union Street Properties, which is based in Dundee, has handed a 222-page dossier to council leaders in an attempt to either restore the 142-year-old Grade A-listed Egyptian Halls in Union Street, or have it knocked down.

Mr Souter says a CPO dating to 1996 was flawed and he is calling for the council to review it, accusing it of "ineffective use of relevant legislation".

The order related to previous owners of the building's top floors and Mr Souter's company agreed to buy the floors if the previous owners dropped a CPO appeal.

Mr Souter, who, together with co-investors bought the final part of the three-storey site more than 10 years ago, wants the council to help them find some of the £20 million needed to transform the building into "one of the best-looking hotels in the UK".

It has stood empty for 30 years and was granted planning permission to become a 114-bedroom hotel in 2012.

A council spokeswoman said: "The council has corresponded with the developer on this particular matter before, and we continue to hold the view we have done everything in our power to support this project and acted appropriately at each stage."

"The council has supported the potential development of the Egyptian Halls for a long time now and look forward to a business plan that could deliver this."



INSIDE: The former school has a multi-use interior.

Author's 'dog dirt' jibe

PLANS for the restoration of Donaldson's College and the creation of a new crescent overlooking the historic building in Edinburgh were unveiled in August.

In 2012 the A-Listed structure was added to the Buildings At Risk Register by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

The developer of the new St James Quarter has John Lewis as its top department store in the £850 million revamp of the eyesore building.

The focus has been on its centrepiece, described as the "the turd hotel" after author Candia McWilliam said it "resembled dog dirt".

report that despite recent ongering Edinburgh's heritage status is not under which is in line with public it on the matter."

Wilkinson, director of gh World Heritage, said: rticularly welcome the ledgement of the tremen- orts to conserve the city last 45 years. Perry, Edinburgh city

council planning convener, said: "As a major European capital it is inevitable new developments are attracted to the centre of Edinburgh, and this is central to our reputation as a thriving, progressive city."

"However, we are committed to managing this process very carefully, striking a fine balance between economic development and the maintenance of our historic environment."

Officer arranged sex with missing girl, 15

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A POLICE constable who arranged to have sex with a 15-year-old runaway while investigating her disappearance has been jailed for four years. Leigh Brightman, 37, of

Hitchin, Hertfordshire, called her to discuss sexual services, arranging for her to travel to his house, after being assigned to the case in August 2014.

The court heard he claimed to have been handed

an escort card and had no idea he was contacting the missing girl. He pleaded guilty to three counts of misconduct in a public office as well as downloading indecent images of a child.