**Statement in Support of Application**

The solar panels have been selected by E.ON as the most suitable and efficient for the location. E.ON have advised that 2 rows of 7 panels each will fit within the permitted current regulations for fitting solar panels to the size of roof. There are no obstructions on the front elevation of the roof. The slope of the roof is relatively shallow, with an angle of 28 degrees and this is unlikely to present much visual impact when viewed from the road, and is not particularly visible from the Haining. The front elevation of the roof faces south west and is nearly ideal for maximum sunlight.

Within the Buccleuch Court development there is no gas supply and choices of fuel are therefore limited to electricity almost exclusively. Generation of electricity by solar panels is an economic alternative source of electricity and helps to reduce greenhouse gases released to the environment.

This planning application is necessary because the property is sited within Dunblane Conservation Area. Buccleuch Court is near the edge of this Conservation Area but the development was completed in 1970. None of the properties within Buccleuch Court, including number 4, are listed buildings.

The following extract from Stirling Council Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance SG07 August 2014, Section 5.2, Cathedral Precinct relates to Buccleuch Court and its position within the Dunblane Conservation Area:-

“Buccleuch Court, a later 20th century development possibly occupying the site of the former bishop’s garden, contrasts sharply with the vernacular and traditional styles of the surrounding area but is concealed and self-contained.”

Two other properties within Buccleuch Court, and in the same row of houses as number 4, have already been granted planning permission for solar panels and have had them fitted within the last 9 years.

In conclusion, the 14 solar panels to be installed on the south west facing roof elevation are not expected to change the appearance of the property to any great extent, especially as Buccleuch Court is “concealed and self-contained”, though is in the Dunblane Conservation Area.

A note on the question about trees. There is a tree in the adjoining garden to the east side of the site and there are trees in the common land to the back of the site. These do not overhang the site and will not be altered in any way by this change.