

Press Release from *Save Gillies Hill*

Campaigners battling to Save Gillies Hill took their fight to the capital last week when a delegation petitioned the Scottish Parliament. Over 2,000 signatures called for the Parliament to consider legislation to protect historic sites such as the Gillies Hill for posterity.

Submitting the petition to MSP Frank McAveety, and flanked by Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford, a consistent supporter in the campaign, the group's spokesperson Peter Paterson emphasised the word 'historic': it did not simply mean 'relating to history' – it meant '*important* in history', and surely nowhere in Scotland's history was as important as the Field of Bannockburn. The Gillies Hill was almost the last substantial remnant of the site of *the* decisive battle in Scotland becoming a nation.

“The gillies of 1314 were the *sma folk* who had put their lives on the line for the cause of freedom” said Peter, “and nowhere in Scotland better enshrines that freedom today, both symbolically and in real political terms than the building we are in. It expresses the voice of the Scottish people, and what the people are saying, overwhelmingly, is that they want the Gillies Hill preserved.”

This sentiment was echoed by delegation members who were representing the 500 plus who had marched in probably the wettest day of the year the previous Sunday across the Hill onto the Field of Bannockburn, emulating the 14th century *sma folk*.

Receiving the petition, Frank McAveety, the Petitions Convenor, assured the group that the Parliament would carefully consider what it said: indeed, members of the group may be invited to appear before the Petitions Committee when it did so in the autumn. Petitioning the Scottish Parliament was an avenue for the public to communicate with politicians, and he was glad to hear that the collection of signatures would continue over the summer; it was important for the voice of the people to be heard.

The group would like to thank both Bruce Crawford, for continued support (and tour of the Parliament) and Roddy Ross for excellent travel arrangements.