

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RPDQ-T

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**

Submitted on **2021-01-16 12:52:31**

About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Individual

Individual

What is your name?

Individual name:

Nicholas Hayes

What is your email address?

Individual Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your address?

Address line 1:

[REDACTED]

Address line 2 :

Address line 3:

Town / city:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

What is your contact telephone number?

Contact number:

[REDACTED]

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)

Comment on Sites in Settlements F to H

Which Site are you commenting on?

Settlements F to H:

Galashiels: AGALA029: Netherbarns: Housing

What are your comments regarding this site?:

Abbotsford is not only historically important as the home of Walter Scott, it is also a vital major attraction in an area devoid of similar facilities.

While not directly involved in any aspect of the operation of the maintenance of this historic monument, I am aware that the trustees endeavour to maintain the site as close as possible to the desires of Scott, particularly, in this case, the grounds with their riverside aspect which he loved so much. This is a feeling which is shared by countless Galashians who frequently follow in the footsteps of the great man through exercising there regularly.

As one of the many who do so I am objecting to the placing of Netherbarn in the Local Government Plan as suitable for housing development.

The grounds for my objection are aesthetic and economic.

Aesthetic because the aspect as envisaged by Scott

would, beyond a shadow of a doubt, not have included a housing estate simply because such a development would detract from the original concept of a view over the river valley.

The economic argument is fairly straightforward. As mentioned above Abbotsford is the only tourist attraction of its type in the Galashiels area and consequently

is one of the major tourist attractions, hence an income generator.

Tourists glancing out over the view that Scott envisaged would not expect to look upon a housing estate when they would have visited the attraction to see the country estate of the great writer, not an urban sprawl.

Spurious arguments such as planted trees, apart from taking many years to mature, would not screen the estate as the Scott house elevation is higher than Netherbarns.

Consequently the important tourist attraction will because of the loss of its attractive visual aspects be remembered for 'who built those houses there, they have spoiled the view, the place has been ruined', instead of, 'its wonderful to see the views over the river valley just as Walter Scott did'.

If it is not there anymore it is best to remember that, as far as tourists are concerned, bad news spreads much quicker than good news.

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)