

Peebles Rugby and Community Sports Club SCIO



Peebles Rugby
19 Eastgate
PEEBLES
EH45 8AD

President: [REDACTED]
Chairman: [REDACTED]
secretary@peeblesrfc.org

Planning Department
Scottish Borders Council, Borders H.Q.
Newtown St. Boswells, MELROSE

21/12/2020

Dear Sirs,

SCARD002

Peebles Rugby Club notes in the draft Local Development Plan, that the area of land at Nether Horsburgh (SCARD002) which is being considered for mixed use is currently used for the annual Peebles Agricultural Show.

Until recently the Agricultural Show was held in Hay Lodge Park in Peebles which is currently used by Peebles Rugby Club for training at all age groups and regular matches for U16's, U18's and the Second 15XV. Over the course of a weekend approx. 150 primary school children take part in the Piranhas mini rugby. At the time such use by the Show caused significant damage to the playing surface and surrounds, all of which has since been re-laid, repaired and drained at considerable expense. The Club estimates that over £180,000 was spent on new drainage, replacement surfaces and surrounding areas not including the provision of floodlighting.

Since the Agricultural Show moved to Nether Horsburgh it has been able to expand and has developed into a very successful annual event. It is clear that Nether Horsburgh is the right and proper venue for this important event rather than the limited nature of Hay Lodge Park.

Nether Horsburgh as the venue should be protected as agricultural land and should not be identified as suitable for development because of the paucity of other suitable locations for the show. The opinion stated above has the unanimous backing of the Rugby Club Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely

James King

Jim King – Secretary, Peebles Rugby Club

