



7 January 2021

Forward Planning
Scottish Borders Council
Newtown St. Boswells
Scottish Borders TD6 0SA

Dear Sirs

Re. Proposal AGALA029 Netherbarns in the SBC Local Development Plan

I write, as a former long-term resident in the Scottish Borders (Melrose) and as a donor to Abbotsford, to register my strong objection to the above proposed development.

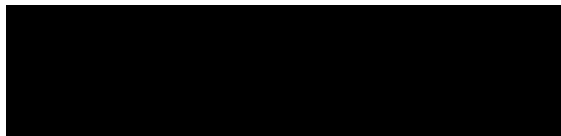
The Abbotsford Trust has set out in detail its objections to this development, which would inevitably have a negative impact on Abbotsford House, its vistas and surroundings. I wholeheartedly support the Trust's objections.

I know that the Netherbarns housing proposal has been the subject of debate for over a decade, and now is the time to scotch it once and for all. Abbotsford is one of the brightest gems in the Scottish Borders, and has required an enormous effort this century to finance and implement a transformative programme of restoration and expansion. This has been successful, despite many constraints.

So it is simply unacceptable that your Council would permit any development damaging to Abbotsford – aesthetically, environmentally or financially. I've no doubt the Netherbarns developers have in mind calling their new estate Abbotsford View, or something similar. In other words, they will want all the benefit from their proximity to Abbotsford – while the Abbotsford Trust would get no benefit whatever from what is absurdly claimed to be a "low-density development of 45 houses" just across the Tweed.

Don't harm Abbotsford! Leave it alone and it will continue to thrive.

Yours sincerely



Francis Hamilton