

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2021 19:36
To: localplan
Subject: Objection to Proposed LDP Galashiels

CAUTION: External Email

FAO Forward Planning, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells

My name is Charlotte Jones and as a resident of [REDACTED] the area immediately adjacent to Gala Policies, I write to object strongly to the proposed LDP for Galashiels, site reference SGALA005 and SGALA016.

Gala Policies is a place of exceptional beauty and a rare treasure: an open access green space, gifted to the community, suitable for families with young children and people with mobility difficulties, and a refuge for a huge diversity of flora and fauna. It should be made a designated protected nature reserve and officially recognised as one of the most important places in Galashiels — not diminished by roads, pollution and superfluous housing development.

The proposed LDP would mutilate this cherished resource.

In particular the proposal to construct a road through Gala Policies is utterly nonsensical. It would remove the ability for children to play safely in this ancient community setting, destroy natural wildlife habitats, increase pollution, and severely injure the character of this much-loved and sorely needed local green space. I and many other local families would be devastated by this. Such a development cannot be allowed to go ahead and I object to it in the strongest possible terms.

The recent lockdowns have only made clearer how precious and valuable the site of Gala Policies is for the local community and how much of a lifeline it is for Galashiels residents as a place of safe outdoor recreation. To put Gala Policies as it stands under threat is to betray the needs of Galashiels residents. Like many other families, I walk in the Policies for recreation daily with my young child. We listen out for woodpeckers, spot buzzards nesting high in the undisturbed trees, and marvel at the ancient oaks. The importance of preserving this green space intact cannot be overstated.

Next to the Policies, the proposed Hollybush development constitutes an almost complete assault on a significant area of precious local open green space and I also object to it in the strongest possible terms. The creation of a “new district” in this area of Galashiels by concreting over beautiful and much-loved open green space is a major mistake which would have ramifications for ancient archaeological sites and precious natural heritage.

In any case, Galashiels does not urgently need more housing. It urgently needs a proper community regeneration and local business prosperity plan to revitalise the town centre and better serve the people who already live here, as well as providing attractions for visitors coming to the town. This must be done by the council before a single extra house is built on the beautiful yet dwindling green space of Galashiels.

Please confirm that you have received my submission and logged my strong objection.

Regards,
Charlotte R Jones
[REDACTED]