

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2021 18:12
To: localplan
Subject: AGALA029 Netherbarns

CAUTION: External Email

I wish to raise my concerns to the possible changes to views from Abbotsford by proposals for a housing development across the river. I am an international visitor who continues to enjoy my visits to the Borders every few years. I have been lucky to have visited Abbotsford many times and to stay there on occasion, and feel that the recent efforts to develop the site into an international destination have been an indication of the continuing stature of Sir Walter Scott, and the interest in Scottish culture globally. From my early visits in the 1980's at a time when the future of Abbotsford was uncertain, to the period when the Abbotsford Trust was founded and undertook the redevelopment of the site we have seen that there is a clear future for this site as a generator for destination tourism in the Borders, clearly we have seen that the travelling public loves Abbotsford as deeply as I do.

In walking the trails and the fields of Abbotsford and photographing the early morning light of the mist rising over the Tweed, I was struck by the ability and will of local authorities to keep the environment intact as a unique view and setting in which to tell the many stories that are told through the Abbotsford site. Having worked in museum administration and knowing the reality of pressure for property development, I know these decisions are not easy but I would like to add my voice to those from around the world who hold high the views and setting for a true crown jewel of the Borders - Abbotsford, and the area surrounding it.

I do not believe a thin planting of trees that will take many years to mature will provide sufficient buffering to keep the views and ambience of Abbotsford intact. I do not believe that a housing development on the Netherbarns property is compatible with the significant heritage resource at Abbotsford, and that stopping this development is the only solution to ensure that the views and ambience are protected for current and future generations. With the significant investment in the Abbotsford property and the tourism response from regular international and UK visitors there is much at stake. I trust that you will recognize the importance of protecting the views from Abbotsford and halt any development at the Netherbarns property.

Sincerely,

Ian Scott

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