

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2021 19:28
To: localplan
Subject: Object to proposal AGALA029 Netherbarns in the Local Development Plan - by 25th January

CAUTION: External Email

Dear 'To Whom it May Concern at the Council'.

I find it almost unbelievable that in the midst of a pandemic that most of us have never had previous experience of, where lives have been turned upside down and the need for open spaces and preservation of areas of the countryside have become of paramount importance that this planning application should be before us.

Abbotsford and Sir Walter Scott are synonymous as part of the wider attraction of the Borders as a tourist destination. More importantly the garden and woodlands there are a vital part of what Sir Walter had to say about the surrounding trees. *'his oaks would outlive his laurels'*.

While I am first to appreciate that the country needs more housing I am not so sure that this development is aimed at first time buyers and is a more speculative project that will attract existing house owners in or outside the area. That apart I strongly object to the proposals but by way of being constructive should the objection be overruled, I would suggest that there is a proper discussion taking place about not only the new planting of trees but how any older trees will be replaced over the longer term. The developers should be party to a Landscape Reserve fund that in some ways compensates the Trust for future planting/felling in the area mentioned. A Professional landscape Firm should be employed to outline a scheme and future costs.

It beggars belief that this should coincide with Scott's 250th Anniversary celebrations. That three different parties including Scottish Government, SOSEA and VisitScotland are all willing to support this event when a private developer is effectively about to embark on a project which entirely dilute the efforts being made by the Abbotsford Trust and the other parties to preserve and promote the house and estate as a place for the general public to enjoy. Clearly there is something wrong here. The Abbotsford Trust is a much more sustainable organisation than a one off housing development with all the associated environmental issues. The Development can be turned around in probably less than a year - Abbotsford Trust has spent an enormous amount of time, money and fund raising efforts that will be ongoing for years to achieve what Sir Walter Scott would have wanted and what the general public deserve after this shocking pandemic that has effected so many lives.

Please reconsider matters - people and places matter. We need to appreciate what we have before embarking on this type of venture.

Yours faithfully

James Oliver
[REDACTED]