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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sat, 16 Jan 2021 14:08:54

To:

Subject: Local plan objections

Sensitivity: Normal

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sir

I would like to register my objections to three aspects of the Local Development Plan with reference to the proposals for the Galashiels area.

Objection One – Hollybush Valley

Whilst this is identified for longer term development, I would like to register an objection to the overall proposal and specifically the idea that a new road should be created through Gala policies. My concern is that Gala Policies is popular green space used for recreational purposes by many residents of the town and also forms part of several walking trails. I believe that this proposal in general is a step too far and could lead to even fewer places for the town's population to access for recreation. This area in general has proved a godsend during the current COVID restrictions as it has been very popular with people trying to exercise in the countryside.

Objection Two – Proposed housing General

I do acknowledge the need for good quality affordable housing, especially social housing but I am afraid that the proposals falls very short in terms of providing the right number and types of housing the correct area. Effectively there is a danger that the local people who earn low wages will be priced out of the housing market by the most types of houses proposed and while there will be a requirement to provide a small ratio of affordable housing I fear that this will not meet the actual need social housing in the Galashiels area.

In general terms I have read the proposals with great dismay and sadness, I fear that the plans will contribute even further to tearing the heart and soul out of the Galashiels community. Effectively Galashiels will become a commuter belt for Edinburgh

and lose much of its Border Community spirit.

Objection Three Netherbarns

Perhaps my strongest objection is to the proposed development at Netherbarns, this has the potential to totally spoil the outlook when looking across from Abbotsford. Given the number of houses proposed to be built in Galashiels is there a really any evidence to support a need for housing to be built in this area of the town? The impact on Abbotsford will be horrendous.

I trust my objections will be registered in the appropriate manner.

Kind regards

Veronica Blackwood