

Archived: 27 January 2021 23:21:11

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, 25 Jan 2021 16:11:52

To:

Subject: SGALA 005. And. SGALA 016 Proposed building in Scott's Park and the proposed road through Gala policies

Sensitivity: Normal

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CAUTION: External Email

I am writing to lodge my objection for the above development. As someone who resided in [REDACTED] for many years I know first hand how important this area is to local people. Even when I moved to [REDACTED] I would still go across to Scott's Park and walk through the policies up to Gala Hill. I recently moved to [REDACTED] but still go to Scott's Park and the policies with my grandson who lives in a flat on [REDACTED] and he loves the freedom and openness of the park and policies especially just now with lockdown this has been a godsend to him, his mum and I.

These are just some of my issues with building on either of these sites.

1. Braw lads celebrations, the start of the fancy dress parade starts at Scott's Park.
2. Braw Lads celebrations, on Braw Lads day the horses ride through the policies and there is a music concert held in Scott's Park.
3. [REDACTED] in southern Scotland roost in trees. Has there been a comprehensive [REDACTED] carried out to ensure [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Scott's Park or the proposed site for the road in the policies? Has the survey determined the potential for bats on site, and or the [REDACTED]. As when I have and do walk in and around Scott's Park and the policies that runs alongside Balmoral Avenue, as dusk falls I have seen [REDACTED] myself.
4. Recently in the surrounding area so many trees have been felled for redevelopment (the trainline and in Tweedbank) that I feel we are quickly destroying the very thing that makes Galashiels such a beautiful place. Our trees and green spaces.

With all we know about the importance of greenspace and woodlands for health and wellbeing let alone the part they play in combating global warming should we be felling more trees? As well as reducing green space. I know there is the argument that there are other areas for people to go to but those that can't walk far, that have disabilities and have no way to travel outwith the Balmoral / Scott Street area should they be deprived of something that was gifted to them by the Laird? Are you considering the effects this will have on their health and wellbeing as well as ensuring equity for all? If my daughter and grandson (2yrs old) hadn't had Scott's Park and the policies on hand during the last 10+ months they would have had to walk further across busy main roads to get to somewhere as open but nowhere near as spacious as what they have at present. With covid and maintaining social distancing if people only had the Tweed Road Park then there would have been very little in the way of social distancing or space to roam as they can in Scott's Park and the policies.

This is not even considering the effects this will have on wildlife. The wildlife and wild lands of this nation are a vital part of our heritage and Scott's Park and the policies are very much part of Galashiels heritage.

You cannot say that this redevelopment will not have an impact on insects, wildlife and bird life as we cannot make up for loss once it is gone!

Has there been a comprehensive study of the increased traffic that will go past Balmoral primary and nursery school? At present only residents, staff and pupils of the school travel this way but surely there will be more traffic and this will cause further issues.

Such as congestion at peak times, risk to young pupils and disruption to those living in and around the surrounding area.

I implore you to reconsider? I do have to say that I have heard of councillors openly saying that they will support this proposal no matter public objections. Which I find incredibly upsetting and somewhat disappointing as we are the people who voted for you as our representatives and you have blatantly refused to listen to and represent our views. I believe in redevelopment however not at the detriment of losing such important areas that will never be replaced. These areas are the heritage of Galashiels, they were gifted to the people and mean so much to those in the surrounding area as well as those outwith the area. Please reconsider?

I leave you with a final thought. If SBC honestly believe this is what the people of Galashiels need and want then I ask that you do a vote. Ask those who live in the TD1 area to vote yes for the proposal or no for the proposal. That way it will be a democratic decision. Asking for viewpoints when counsellors are openly saying you're viewpoint is insignificant to me as I have already made my decision is undemocratic and quite frankly makes a mockery of this process. I honestly want to believe that my council and councillors who I voted for are genuinely interested in what I have to say and feel about the redeployment of my local area and not that this is merely a ticky box activity!

Kind regards

Pauline Callaghan



Sent from my Samsung Galaxy S9 - Powered by Three