

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RPDP-S

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**

Submitted on **2021-01-17 10:07:33**

About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Individual

Individual

What is your name?

Individual name:

Richard Lees

What is your email address?

Individual Email:

████████████████████

What is your address?

Address line 1:

████

Address line 2 :

████████████████

Address line 3:

Town / city:

████████████████

Postcode:

██████████

What is your contact telephone number?

Contact number:

████████████████

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)

Comment on Sites in Settlements F to H

Which Site are you commenting on?

Settlements F to H:

Galashiels: GSGALA010: Scott Park: Greenspace

What are your comments regarding this site?:

Greetings,

I would like to voice my objections at your proposal to build the new Galashiels Academy within the grounds of the Scott Park.

Let me first say that I am pleased that the Council are keen to get a new school built and have no problem with that in itself, my objection is purely regarding the location of it.

I have recently moved into ██████████ in October 2020 and none of the Council's public literature gave any indication that you would be building a new school on top of the park at the time of my purchase.

Currently your Local Development Plan literature still states that you intended to build within the current school grounds. How can there be a reasonable public

consultation if your literature is not providing accurate information?

I have helped local residents build the website scottpark.co.uk so I'm reasonably familiar with the goings on up until now.

As I understand it, your strongest positive reason for building 'closer to the town' is to support the local economy, i.e. passing trade from school kids. I don't think that's a strong enough reason to vindicate building on top of the park, and walking an extra 100 metres to the shops is not going to deter hungry school kids from getting their lunch.

Over the past few days I've seen dozens of people using the park, each day. Kids playing, dog walkers, the older generation simply out for a stroll. Sometimes you'll even see horses. Your development plan indicates that the park and Gala Policies would make way for roads, car parking and houses... what flat piece of land is then left for people to enjoy the outdoors in this part of town? Gala Hill is simply too steep for many people and fields are relatively inaccessible and typically 'out of bounds' in lambing season. Where are kids to play?

The proposed 'redeveloped park' is a thin streak of land that would work its way round the side of the Academy. How would that be usable? It won't be helpful to dog walkers who can no longer let their dogs run around or throw balls for them, and not enough space for people to 'enjoy' the space without 'human traffic' passing by. It would simply be the remaining land after the Academy is built rather than being a project in itself.

Quite simply, I think the alternative proposal(s) of building within the Academy grounds is the most sensible, particularly so if there is intended to be another housing estate in Hollybush.

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)