

**Archived:** 18 January 2021 14:55:49

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sun, 17 Jan 2021 22:18:33

**To:**

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Local Development Plan: AGALA029 / SGALA005 / GSGALA010

**Sensitivity:** Normal

---

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sir, Madam,

Please find below our objections to the above mentioned references of the Local Development Plan. Please be informed that these objections were originally lodged on SBC website which demonstrated a malfunction at the stage of submitting the forms.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kind regards

Aude Le Guennec and Gordon Campbell  
[REDACTED]

AGALA029: Netherbarns Housing

This housing project will directly impact Abbotsford estate and affect the perception of this Borders heritage asset. The planting planed in front of the housing is a poor project to make this housing disappear in a historical landscape which won't be successful and will only achieve to make even more visible this housing estate in a protected landscape. As we're preparing to celebrate Sir Walter Scott's 250th anniversary, this project sounds in total contradiction with the importance given to Abbotsford in the definition of Galashiels' history, as well as a neglect of Galashiels' community heritage.

SGALA005: Hollybush Valley

I am totally against this housing project. Building a new district in this protected area of Galashiels requires the construction of a road which will go through Gala Policies and destroy a protected asset in Galashiels. Gala Policies are a key breathing space in the middle of the town, accessible to all, for all to enjoy and use in a variety of ways. During the Covid 19 Pandemic, it has proven to be a space of freedom which has been used by all families and children to find a little bit of comfort. This wood is the only space in Galashiels where the accessibility allows an inclusive access to a key green space. This can't be taken away from the community.

Hollybush, which is a beautiful landscape, representative of the picturesque Hills of the Borders, is visible from the back road to Selkirk which is a fantastic biking and walking road where children enjoy a safe ride. This landscape will be destroyed and the happiness enjoyed by all during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to this beautiful walk at the foot of Gala Hill will be removed from the community. Why would Galashiels' community be banned from what makes Galashiels a beautiful gem of the Borders? Furthermore, the construction of a new estate / district, requires school places, shopping facilities, NHS services, which are not planned in the town planning for the next years. We can question the lack of anticipation with regard to the accommodation of this large number of families hosted there.

GSGALA010: Scott Park

I understand that Scottish Borders Council is currently developing its preferred option for the new Galashiels Academy, and if

given planning consent, that this proposal will place the new campus within Scott Park.

Although I agree that the construction of a new school and associated sporting and community facilities would be of great benefit to Galashiels, I strongly oppose locating the campus within our park.

Scott Park is one of our few remaining open spaces in the town, which provides a safe and natural environment that is used widely by families and for a range of social events and sporting activities. This asset has proven and continues to prove its importance for families looking for a space to freely enjoy wellbeing time, leisure and outdoor education. This space is far from empty of inhabitants and shows a busy activity all year round.

Note that as of January 2021 the council states the following (page 113):

“ The Council is currently investigating the potential for co-location and sharing opportunities across the town’s primary estate. The Council has also agreed to replace the existing high school and plans for this are progressing for a new secondary campus which is expected to be located on the site currently occupied by Galashiels Academy. ”

The current site adjacent to the Scott Park as well as Netherdale were identified as suitable locations.

However, the short-sighted solution of building Gala Academy in Scott Park has been retained as a preferred option, to the neglect of the other possibilities. I insist that the Council develop an alternative option to their proposed plan that will make use of the existing seven hectare site to accommodate the new campus buildings and pitches.

It has only recently come to light that Scottish Borders Council prefer a major adaptation to the preferred site that will consume approximately 1 hectare of the park. The footprint of the proposed development will take out the best section of the wide open space within the park and losing the character of the park. The Option 3 proposal will diminish and badly impact the character of the park and will result in the loss of precious key greenspace.

Council policies include reference to Key Greenspace and Scott Park is identified as such. The policy offers protection to these spaces and I would ask that the Council respect this policy and endeavour to deliver a new campus within the existing school grounds that sits alongside and in harmony with our park.

I would like my objection to your proposal to build in Scott Park to be recorded, in order to retain what is part of the heritage of Galashiels' community and a fantastic asset in times of uncertainties, where the wellbeing and sense of belonging of each citizen should be prioritised and supported.