



Scottish Borders Council

Forward Planning Team

Council HQ

Newtown St Boswells

TD6 0SA

15 January 2021

Dear Members of Council

ABBOTSFORD HOUSING PLANS

I am writing to express my strong dismay and my disapproval of the go-ahead being given to any development of the land across Tweed from Abbotsford which would in any way impede, compromise or spoil the view over the river.

The site is one of the iconic cultural locations of Scotland, well known and admired by countless people round the world, well aware that Walter Scott loved this view and even had his bed moved into the dining room which overlooks Tweed as he approached his death.

This project is one which, if allowed to proceed, will I am sorry to anticipate, be regretted by many generations to come. "How could they have allowed this to go ahead?" will be the question posed.

Look at how in Edinburgh we are, today, trying to make good the now acknowledged errors made a generation ago and which are deeply regretted – one thinks of the reassessment of the St James's Centre, for example.

It would be shocking for Borders Council 2021 to attract the same negative opinion by those who come along in the future.

I beg you to reconsider and find an alternative site for your development.

It was a beautiful day ... the sound of all others most delicious to his ear, the gentle ripple of the Tweed over its pebbles, was distinctly audible as we knelt around his bed and his eldest son kissed and closed his eyes (J G Lockhart: Life of Sir Walter Scott)

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

P D Hunter (former Chairman, The Byron Society)

