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16.1.21

Forward Planning Team,  
Council Headquarters,  
Newtown St. Boswells,  
Scottish Borders.  
TD6 0SA

F.A.O. [REDACTED]

## **Local Development Plan LDP2**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to express our objection to your proposed continued inclusion of site **REYEM002** being designated as "redevelopment" in the new Local Development Plan (LDP2) which is currently being finalised. This site has been offered for housing development since the transfer of the Eyemouth High School to its new site at Gunsgreenhill in 2009. It is our opinion that there are other more suitable areas for housing development already identified on the LDP. More recently your proposed plans to develop a new Eyemouth Community Campus and a housing development there were met with fierce local opposition mainly on the grounds that this green area is hugely valued and much used recreationally by the Eyemouth community. This open space area has always been a haven for Eyemouth people of all ages and especially during this past year of the global pandemic. Indeed, Eyemouth Primary School children and more especially the children attending the Eyemouth Early Years Centre regularly access the grass and woodland area for outdoor activities and to learn about nature in a safe, open space.

Green spaces have never been more valuable to society as during this current global pandemic where people require such areas to help improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing by facilitating leisure and recreational activities, and as such these spaces are an essential part of the local landscape.

The designated "green spaces" for Eyemouth shown on SBC's current LDP are mainly river walks, woodland areas, a school rugby pitch and even an old cemetery (GSEYEM003). It is very clear that Eyemouth, unlike all the other Border towns, has no proper public recreational space or public park and the often repeated argument that "you have a beach area for recreation" is futile considering its north facing aspect and the tidal nature.

Development on green space areas is totally ignoring the **Scottish Governments Planning Advice Note No 65 (2008)** which lays out the social, environmental and economical values of such Open Spaces.

Any development on this site would also be in total contradiction to your own **Scottish Borders Green Space Strategy** which highlights the health and wellbeing benefits of green spaces and opposes any such Development Plans.

Eyemouth has been allocated approx. £200,000 as part of Scottish Borders Council's £5 million Playpark and Outdoor Community Spaces Programme, to be used for either upgrading existing playparks or the provision of a new Destination Park similar to recent builds at Coldstream, Kelso, Galashiels and Hawick. This area would be an ideal site for a new Destination Park and this could easily be part of the development of our new public town park.

We would therefore ask that this area (REYEM002) be redesignated as a Greenspace area on the new LDP2 plan and propose that you should in fact respond to the wishes of the Eyemouth community by developing and enhancing this whole area as a valued multi- functional community public park which would then be in line with the existing parks in all the other Borders towns.

Yours faithfully,