



19th January 2021

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

Dear Sirs

**Ref : OBJECTION to Building Proposal
AGALA 029 Netherbarns**

Although we do not live in the Borders area we have visited Abbotsford House on several occasions and look forward to doing so again in, hopefully, the near future.

It is with great concern and alarm that we have learned of the above Planning Application and we wish to lodge our objection this. One of the finest aspects of this historic building is the view across the river which has remained unchanged for 250 years and more. Why, with all the land available in the area, choose a site which would desecrate the memory of one of Scotland's finest minds and writers? There is no reason to build here except for the added selling power of being able to say 'with a view across the Tweed to one of Scotland's finest houses'. What of the view in reverse Will being able to say 'with a view across the Tweed to a housing scheme' add to the power to attract visitors? I think not.

The claim that Abbotsford is closed in winter (when houses would be most visible) and therefore attracting no visitors is false. The House is open to the public in December (usually) and visitors make use of the many walks round the grounds of Abbotsford throughout the year, mainly coming to enjoy the unique views across the river few would come to look at 45 houses. The existing trees obscuring the planned buildings is another red herring. Old trees die or are blown down and then what would be seen in summer and winter?

Please do not allow this Planning Application to proceed further. There is no need or reason to build on this particular site except to increase the profit margin for the builder.

My wife and I strongly object to this application.

Yours faithfully



Donald Kinnear