

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



18th January 2021

Dear Sirs

AGALA029 Netherbarns

It is almost beyond belief that yet another Planning application is being considered, which will be in FULL VIEW of Abbotsford.

Travelling extensively I have so often seen books by Sir Walter Scott in the Libraries of very grand Palaces, Castles, State Libraries all over Europe.

The story of Sir Walter Scott and Abbotsford is one which we, in the Scottish Borders should treasure and protect. As we should the house at Abbotsford, and its estate, including its views and the long views from the surrounding area towards Abbotsford. It is all part of the whole. It is also a treasure for the Scottish nation.

The house is a gem in the central Borders, protected now by the Trust who have worked tirelessly to raise funds to secure its future, and the ongoing renovation and conservation and promotion of the house, the gardens, the land and trees.

It is high time the Scottish Borders Council made it clear, by some unbreakable policy that the Abbotsford Estate is protected from ANY development which would forever damage the views of and towards this gem for all time.

Anything less would critically damage the value that Abbotsford represents including History, Tourism and thereby the valuable support it gives to surrounding businesses.

As Chairman of Planning and Development in the 1980's, when an almost similar application which would have damaged views from Abbotsford was refused, I would find it unforgivable if the present Council did anything less now.

The blatantly incorrect information given in LDP2 confirms that the proximity of this development and the inadequate screening & landscaping would be woefully inadequate. Have Officials and Councillors actually looked at the site from the Abbotsford side of the Tweed? It doesn't seem so.

The proposed site is directly opposite Abbotsford House and grounds, which, incidentally is open throughout the year, including various promotions and the Hope Scott Wing which provides five star + accommodation for visitors, frequently over Christmas & New Year, plus weddings, family gatherings corporate events, overseas guests etc. throughout the year.

To even suggest in LDP2 that only "fleeting views" would be seen during the winter months, and none in the summer questions the intelligence of those who wrote this policy and those who read it. Tree screening for the future is a very insecure 'consent condition' would never prove satisfactory, and would be unenforceable. Any experienced qualified Planning professional would therefore surely not make or agree to this proposition.

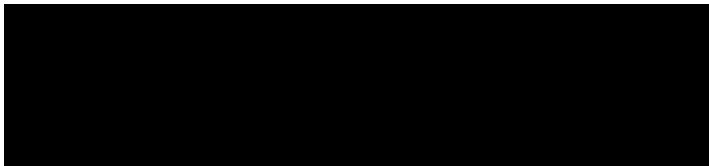
I also quote the National Planning Framework 3 below.

NPF3 recognises the contribution made by our cultural heritage to our economy, cultural identity and quality of life. Planning has an important role to play in maintaining and enhancing the distinctive and high-quality, irreplaceable historic places which enrich our lives, contribute to our sense of identity and are an important resource for our tourism and leisure industry.

For all the above reasons, I strongly object to this planning application and hope the SBC now identifies Abbotsford House and its entire Estate as a National Treasure and protects the area surrounding it, including all areas which can be seen from any area as stated above in perpetuity from any form of development.

We only have one chance to do this. On behalf of those who come after us, please don't fail to protect Abbotsford for the Nation, in perpetuity. I knew and admired Dame Jean Maxwell Scott and know exactly how horrified and dismayed she would be if this sacrilege went ahead.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Michaëlle Burns-Greig (Miss)

P.S. This is posted by secure post, to ensure its delivery in these Covid times.