

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 25 Jan 2021 19:22:04
To:
Subject: Objections to Local Development Plan
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CAUTION: External Email

Hi, I would like to object to two areas of the proposed LDP.

The first is the proposed location of the new Galashiels Academy on Scott Park. The council should follow the advice of the consultants who proposed alternative locations within the current footprint of the school site, or even better take the option they recommended to locate the school at Netherdale. The Council should protect the green space at Scott Park not destroy it, and the consultant's suggestion to locate the school at Netherdale or on the existing school site demonstrates viable alternatives.

The council should take wider impacts into account when making this decision, not just take the short term easy option based just on construction costs. A number of significant forward looking benefits would be generated by the Netherdale option, including protecting the green space at Scott Park and creating an education hub and links to Borders College and Herriot Watt at the Netherdale site. Also walking and cycling links to the town centre, the community at Langlee and to Tweedbank could be strengthened using this option. The consultant's proposal to develop the old school site as a gateway to the countryside could also bring significant tourism as well as health benefits to the town. If the school is located on Scott Park this will also allow housing development by the back door on the old school site, which goes against the terms and spirit of the donation of the park to the community. Galashiels regeneration should be focused on the redeveloped of existing sites not the development of green space. The council should also listen to the views of the 700+ people who have signed a petition against the development of the park.

Secondly, I would like to object to the proposal to allow housing at Netherbarns opposite Abbotsford. Abbotsford is the jewel in the crown of Borders tourism and is a year round visitor destination and a site of national importance. To site a housing development within view of the designed landscape and the house will destroy our cultural, historical and natural heritage when the council's role should be to protect it. It's lazy planning policy to allow this rather than to work in partnership with the private sector to redevelop a number of available sites in Galashiels for housing, including the old Borders college site, the old Burgh Yard, and numerous old mill buildings and sites which stand empty and undeveloped in the town centre.

Planting a thin screen of trees which will take years to mature will not mitigate the negative impacts of the development.

Kind regards

Samantha Smith
[REDACTED]