



21st January 2021

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

F.A.O. 

## **Local Development Plan LDP2**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in response to the letter I received regarding the intention of Scottish Borders Council to continue to designate the site **REYEM002** as "redevelopment" in the Local Development Plan (LDP2) which is currently being finalised.

I and other local residents are aware that the site has been offered for housing development since the transfer of Eyemouth High School to its new site at Gungreenhill. I feel that a great deal has changed since that time and even more so since the LDP was adopted by the council in 2016. The Covid-19 pandemic itself has highlighted the need for a central green space in Eyemouth and on the LDP there are several other areas designated for housing.

I am surprised that the council is 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 encroaching on green spaces

The designated "green spaces" for Eyemouth shown on SBC's current LDP are mainly river walks, woodland areas, a school rugby pitch and an old cemetery (GSEYEM003). Eyemouth, unlike every other Border town, has very limited recreational space and no public park. The argument that a public park is not required given the existence of the beach area is not valid given the north facing aspect of the beach and the limited access which results due to its tidal nature.

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 a new public town park.

I would therefore ask that this area (REYEM002) be redesignated as a Greenspace area on the new LDP2 plan. This would provide both the people of Eyemouth and the many visitors to the town with a multi-functional community public park equivalent to existing parks in all the other Borders towns.

Yours sincerely

Ishbel Dorward