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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2021 14:59
To: localplan
Subject: Opposition to LDP Darnlee

CAUTION: External Email

[REDACTED]
21/01.21

Dear Sir/Madam

Opposition to the Potential long-term expansion at Darnlee and to the west of Darnlee

Darnick is a historical village which over the last few years has expanded greatly. This has taken away green space from the village. Surely building at Darnlee, which is a listed building takes away from the beautiful, historical entrance into the village. As written in the LDP the Darnick Conservation Area is characterised by a number of buildings fronting directly onto the main street and the loss of open space will be to the detriment of the character of the village. Also grazing land would be lost if building took place. Darnick is a beautiful old village with lots of character and many old village stories. Surely it should be allowed to be kept as a village, not a village taken over with new housing developments.

Additional housing places a burden on the already high levels of traffic through the village, where there are a number of constricted areas. There is already a problem with parking in Darnick as many of the older properties have no parking provision. We live on [REDACTED] in a constricted area with no parking, we have been here more than forty years and have seen many changes to the village but to actually remove road parking would be a nightmare for many residents. The traffic through the village has also increased considerably with the new developments over the last few years, to increase it more is lunacy. Also the local school and health centre are working at capacity levels now- they would find it harder to cope with even more new clients.

During the development phase there would be an impact due to the volume of trade vehicles. Broomilees Road is already narrow and without a pavement and provides access to the nearby farms. Access to the site will have a negative impact on the safe use of this and neighbouring roads and junctions.

We also strongly oppose any development of the community woodland, known as 'Big Shunter's Wud', which lies adjacent to and to the west of Darnlee.

The community woodland was established in 1998 after consultation with the villagers, and had previously been poor grazing land left over from the development and building of the bypass and the new road layout as a result of re-alignment of the roadways. The woodland has been invested in over this time to provide a community space for the enjoyment of all villagers especially during the Pandemic.

This land also forms a greenspace between Darnick and Tweedbank. Development of this space would undermine SBC's anti-coalescence policy which determines to keep the settlements distinct. The site is also within the designated battlefield area.

In conclusion we strongly oppose these developments as Darnick should be left to be a historical village with green space around it.

Thank you for reading our views.

Mary and Gordon Blain