

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2021 19:43
To: localplan
Subject: LDP2 Netherbarns/Abbotsford
Attachments: Abbotsford-Netherbarns LDP2.docx

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sirs

LDP2 Netherbarns/Abbotsford

I am writing about the development plan LDP2 for 45 houses at Netherbarns, overlooking Scott's Abbotsford, and the detriment that this risks causing to Abbotsford's outlook.

Of immediate significance is Abbotsford's key role in the Borders economy. The substantial contribution to this of the huge number of visitors to Abbotsford, many of whom will seek accommodation, meals and other services locally, must be taken into account. This is even more relevant in the near future, given that the area will be trying its best, through tourism, to recover from the deeply negative effects of Covid-19 restrictions. To endanger the benefits of Abbotsford to the local economy would be singularly unwise at any time, but all the more so at this juncture.

The disruption visually and audibly of having construction work during the significant year of the 250th anniversary of Scott's Abbotsford would surely have a particularly negative effect on visitor satisfaction and thus on the inclination of visitors/tourists to prolong their stay and so contribute more to the Borders economy.

I am also worried about the effect of the proposed works on the existing woodland between the development and the River Tweed, both because of the value of the woodland as natural environment *per se* and also in what the plan seems to perceive as the capacity of trees to act as a screen. I fear that the considerable digging and disruption to the ground deep down, through construction and drainage work at the development site, is likely to have knock-on long-term effects, diminishing the amount of moisture and possibly nutrients in the soil at the lower elevation of the existing woodland downhill towards the river, thus potentially damaging the healthy survival of this natural area. It would be environmentally damaging to endanger this woodland as well as to risk the problem of any trees adjacent to the development being able to form a visual screen. Any planned new trees will have a less favourable environment for survival and growth, due to the afore-mentioned effects of construction. If they do manage to thrive, they would in any case take decades to grow to anything like a screen.

There is another matter which I wish to raise. While I understand that the presence of Covid-19 makes representation most appropriately expressed on-line, it also needs to be taken into consideration that the restrictions in force because of Covid-19 simultaneously limit the public's ability physically to go and actually see the sight-lines from Abbotsford to the proposed development, and to look in detail at the land and the existing woodland concerned. To my mind the current physical restrictions on the public negate to a significant extent the validity of the consultation process in the current months.

In a much more global context, it is surely inappropriate to endanger the attraction Scott's Abbotsford has in heritage terms – for the Borders, Scotland, and the world - by diminishing the enhancement which it gains from its lovely outlook and wider beauty, something which inevitably goes beyond the building itself and its historical and cultural significance as Sir Walter Scott's home.


I trust you will consider carefully the matters I have raised, and not risk jeopardizing or even diminishing the contribution of Abbotsford to the Borders and beyond, through carrying forward the development plan at Netherbarns.

Yours faithfully

Frances R Dorward



(born and formerly resident in Galashiels)



21st January 2021

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