

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2021 21:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Development Plan LPD2

CAUTION: External Email

F.A.O [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to express our objection to the inclusion of site REYEM002 being designated as 'redevelopment' in the new Local Development Plan (LPD2). This site has been offered for new housing since the transfer of the Eyemouth High School to its new site in Gunsgreenhill in 2009. It is the opinion of many in our local community that there are other more suitable areas for housing development already identified on the LPD.

You must be aware that the proposed plans to develop a new Eyemouth Community Campus and housing development have been met with fierce local opposition mainly on the grounds that this green area is a hugely valued recreational space which is well used by the local community. This space has been a Godsend for adults and children of all ages particularly in this last difficult year with the global outbreak of Covid 19. Eyemouth Primary School and its Early Years Centre children regularly access the grass and woodland area for outdoor activities. Inter School competitions such as Cross Country Running and other sporting events are enjoyed by children from further afield than Eyemouth including pupils from Coldingham, Reston, Ayton and Cockburnspath schools.

Green spaces have never been of more value to society as during this current pandemic where people require such areas to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing by partaking in leisure and recreational activities in an area easily accessible to everyone in the local community.

My husband and I moved back to Eyemouth six years ago (my husband is from this area and was a pupil at Eyemouth High) to give my four children the opportunity to grow up in an area surrounded by easily accessible beautiful green spaces. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The green space around our home has, in no uncertain terms, been a life saver for her as I'm sure it has been for other adults and children in the local area.

The designated 'green spaces' for Eyemouth shown on SBC's current LPD are mainly river walks, woodland areas, a school rugby pitch and an old cemetery (GSEYSM003).

Eyemouth, unlike all the other Border Towns, has no proper public recreational space or public park and the often repeated argument that 'you have a beach area for recreation' does not consider the north facing aspect and the fact the beach is tidal rendering it inaccessible for long periods during the day. The bantry has to be cordoned off when the tides are considered too dangerous for people to go near. Children have been swept into the sea and severely injured. It cannot be viewed in the same way as a park or playground.

The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note No. 65 (2008) lays out the social, environmental and economic values of such open spaces as the area of the proposed site, and should not be ignored. 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.

Eyemouth has been allocated approximately £200,000 as part of the Scottish Border Council £5 million Playpark and Outdoor Community Spaces Programme, to be used for either upgrading existing play parks 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 could easily be part of the development of our new public town park.

We would like to ask that the area (REYEM002) be redesignated as a Greenspace area on the LDP2 plan and propose that you should respond to the wishes of the people of Eyemouth by developing and enhancing this whole area as a valued multi functional community public park in line with the existing parks in all the other Borders town.

Many thanks

[Redacted signature block]