

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2021 08:41
To: localplan
Subject: AGALA029 Netherbarns NO to the Netherbarns Housing Development

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sir, Dear Madam

I write to voice my **objection** to the proposed development of 45 houses on land across the River Tweed from Abbotsford.

I believe this will have a significant negative impact on Abbotsford, and also the Scottish Borders tourism image as a whole.

Abbotsford recreates the story of Sir Walter Scott and his literary world for its 77.000 plus visitors annually. It is not just the house and grounds, but also the scenic views of the surrounding borders' countryside that inspires visitors, promoting as well the Borders unique history and heritage internationally.

A modern housing estate in the direct field of vision of Abbotsford's visitors (winter being as important as summer) seems to be completely contrary to the image of what I would think Scottish Borders want to portray. There is also a real risk of it impacting visitor numbers and therefore tourism revenues to the area in the longer term.

Similar issues arise in [REDACTED], the French town where I live, home to the chateau of Voltaire. The town itself has been rapidly developing, but the perimeter around the Chateau is very protected. With a major restoration in 2018, the French State (owners) have made every effort to keep the property looking as it did in Voltaire's day. No development in the town is allowed to encroach on the Chateau and its views. (The town council for example was asked to change the style of the playground equipment in the park below.) They have done some excellent work with the restoration and consequently visitors and the town and region profits from the chateau's image as a historic and literary heritage site.

A great deal of work has similarly been invested in Abbotsford to attract visitors to Sir Walter Scott's ancestral home. and help boost the Scottish Borders' tourist industry. (Contributions of around 30 million US\$ to the local area in 2015 according to the Abbotsford News <https://www.abbynews.com/news/tourism-revenue-up-19-per-cent-in-abbotsford-last-year/>).

It would be a great shame to chip away at this work with a housing development not at all in keeping with the historical and environmental image that Abbotsford and the surrounding area, conveys.

I therefore ask you to consider my objections, in the interests of the Scottish Border's heritage and tourism industry, as well as for Abbotsford's continuing success, particularly in light of its 250th anniversary.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Maxwell Scott
[REDACTED]

