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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sun, 24 Jan 2021 23:04:58

To:

Subject: AGALA029 Netherbarns Building Proposal

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:  
[REDACTED]

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CAUTION: External Email

Please find attached my letter objecting to this proposal.

Regards

**James Maxwell-Scott QC**  
**Crown Office Chambers**  
**Barrister**

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Dear Sir / Madam

This is my letter of objection to the **AGALAO29 Netherbarns Building Proposal** as set out in the Local Development Plan.

Abbotsford House is an important part of Scotland's heritage and a major tourist attraction in the Borders. The attractiveness of its setting is fundamental to its appeal.

The proposal to build homes on the Netherbarns site will have a negative effect on the setting and consequently undermine Abbotsford's appeal as a tourist attraction.

I understand that there is a belief that by planting more trees between the proposed housing and the Tweed, it will create a complete screen and therefore not spoil the setting. This is erroneous because Abbotsford and its grounds are in use, in various ways, all the year round. The proposed housing (and its lights) would thus be visible for much of the year. If, however the screen were to be of such density as to hide the housing and its 'services', it would indubitably spoil the attractive landscape which has always faced Abbotsford from across the Tweed.

I understand that in the past similar proposals to build homes at the same Netherbarns site were rejected. I do not understand why conditions have now changed so much as to merit a change in policy. The statistics provided by your study indicate that the local population is only forecast to grow by an insignificant amount.

If the Netherbarns Building Proposal is allowed to go ahead it will be an irreversible degradation to Abbotsford's unique appeal.

I therefore request that this proposal be rejected.

Yours sincerely

James Maxwell-Scott

