

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2021 23:27
To: localplan
Subject: Scott Park and New Galashiels Academy

CAUTION: External Email

Scott Park and New Galashiels Academy

Mr [REDACTED]

I understand that Scottish Borders Council is currently developing a preferred option for the new Galashiels Academy and that this proposal will place the new campus within Scott Park.

Scott park was entrusted to the council for the enjoyment of the residents of Galashiels. The park provides an essential safe green space for our families to explore and develop an understanding of nature. It provides many children, including our own, with play at the play park, in addition to sporting activities and exercise. Never has this been so sacred then during these challenging times of restrictions and lockdown. We like many families in the immediate area do not have a garden in which children can play.

Whilst we understand the need to construct a new school, we strongly object to and oppose any proposal to locating the campus within our park. This space is precious to our children and to families within the community. It is offensive, especially at this time that such a proposal be made.

Council policies include reference to Key Greenspace and Scott Park is identified as such. The policy offers protection to these spaces and I would ask that the Council respect this policy and endeavour to deliver a new campus within the existing school grounds that sits alongside and in harmony with our park. The council would additionally be setting a dangerous precedent where Green space zoning and restrictions are overlooked for the self-interest of the entrusted owner in this instance Scottish Borders council. Scott Park was left to Galashiels community for its protection and enjoyment these proposals are contradictory to these aims.

Delicate ecosystems such as that within Scott Park designated as a key green space are essential to helping communities tackle the climate crisis we find ourselves in. These spaces do not just hold environmental benefits to the town but also essential education to future generations around nature and our care for it. This proposal seems at odds with the Scottish Governments declaration of Climate Crisis. Key green spaces should not only be protected but promoted not eroded and destroyed.

I would like my formal objection to your proposal to build in Scott Park to be recorded for further consideration. I am available for further discussions on this matter.

Kind regards
Harriet Hain

[REDACTED]