

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2021 10:43
To: localplan
Subject: AGALA029 Netherbarns

CAUTION: External Email

Forward Planning
Scottish Borders Council
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
Scottish Borders
TD60SA

Dear Sirs

AGALA029 Netherbarns

I write to unequivocally object to the Scottish Borders Council's proposal to allow the building of 45 private houses at Netherbarns, immediately opposite Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott.

As a current Trustee of the Abbotsford Trust, and as the retired Keeper of Scottish History and Archeology at the National Museum of Scotland, I have a significant knowledge of Scott's continuing contribution to the cultural life of his beloved Scotland. That this centered round his acquisition and development of his home at Abbotsford is entirely manifest, and makes the preservation of Abbotsford, and its environment absolutely essential to the local, national and international understanding and enjoyment of Abbotsford.

As an Abbotsford trustee, I obviously and completely endorse the comprehensive objection the Trust has submitted to the Scottish Borders Council, particularly our repudiation of the clearly erroneous suggestion in LDP2 that 'the site will not be visible from Abbotsford House' because of screening by trees. This is clearly not the case in either summer or winter.

It is worth remembering that when Scott bought the estate of Cartleyhole from the minister of Galashiels, the Rev David Douglas, it was primarily **because** of its location in the landscape, redolent of the long, often dramatic, history of the Borderlands. It is this association of Scott's marvelous house **within** its historical landscape that make it so internationally important. In its magnificent setting, the view across the Tweed is paramount. The number of visitors drawn to Abbotsford because of this, has already been adequately rehearsed in the Trust's detailed objection, but it is undoubtedly worth remembering that this is in great part why Abbotsford is the 'jewel in the crown' of the Scottish Borders tourist offer. It was undoubtedly because of this that the SBC gave such generous and far-reaching support during the extensive restoration and redevelopment of the site in 2010-13, and indeed continues to support the Trust in many ways. It seems ironic, therefore, that the same council is set on compromising the integrity of Abbotsford's worldwide importance, for the sake of allowing the building of a small group of, presumably rather expensive, houses that will do little or nothing to alleviate the housing situation in the Borders in general.

I wish to record my complete and utter objection to this shortsighted and ill-thought-out proposal that will undoubtedly lead to the erosion of the Borders' and Scotland's' heritage.

Yours sincerely

George R Dalglish MA, FSA, FSAScot

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