

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2021 18:10  
**To:** localplan  
**Subject:** Policies Objection

CAUTION: External Email

Hi

We're writing to you to comment on the Local Development Plan, in particular proposed developments in Galashiels.

We're in favour of the proposed housing developments (marked in Brown on the Interactive Map) around Galashiels. However, we are concerned by the proposed development SGALA016/SGALA005 and GSGALA009 (Gala Policies) and GSGALA10 (Scott Park) .

We feel the proposed development does not fit with the character or development of the town. The ongoing Covid crisis has shown the need for local recreation facilities. Over the past few years the Council has reduced the number of amenities within Gala, closing/proposing to close a half-dozen or so play areas to create a central one at Netherdale. Whilst a new Academy is required, the proposal to destroy most of Scott Park to provide the school is regrettable. There is only a small amount of green space available for people living in the main central parts of town and as Covid has demonstrated this needs to be preserved.

We object to the plans to replace Scott Park and degrade Gala Policies. Gala Policies as well as an important amenity for people in the centre of town and Balmoral is also visited by many tourists and visitors to Gala. It also surveys as an important refuge to wildlife. We feel putting a road through the Policies or even along the southern end would be detrimental to wildlife as well as the many thousands of people who regularly use the Policies.

We feel that instead of looking to develop in the SGALA016/SGALA005 area the Council should continue to look to develop at Kingsknowes AGALA029 (including the lower area not being developed) as well as on the other side of the A7 in the area around Barr Road and the Southern Upland Way. Equally further development around the back of Balmoral (behind the school towards Mossilee) would allow easier access to town and services like schools and shops than SGALA016/SGALA005. Equally development along the A72 opposite Torwoodlee Mains would make sense. All of these areas already are served by public transport, have good road connections and easy access to services. Whereas to use SGALA016/SGALA005 would involve expensive investment in infrastructure (i.e upgrading) as well as taking up important greenspace and building in an undeveloped area.

Regards

Ms J Cairns and S Dyer-Lynch

[REDACTED]