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**From:** Community Council [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2021 18:07  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Local Development Plan

**CAUTION:** External Email

Dear Sirs

I am writing as chair of the Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd Community Council (LNKCC) to comment on proposals for the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Our first point relates to the COVID-19 restrictions which have made many people reassess the value of the countryside where they live and indeed, we are already seeing many people leaving Edinburgh to buy properties in the Borders Region.

We are fortunate in having areas of unique and very special landscape and it is perhaps timely that the LDP is being reviewed. There is now an opportunity to consider designating the land to the west of the Cloich Hills, known locally as the Lyne Catchment, as a Special Landscape Area (SLA).

The Community Council strongly believes the value of our landscape has never been more important. Midlothian Council has extended the Pentland Hill SLA south-eastwards as far as Leadburn and they have also created the Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp SLAs to the east of Leadburn. We believe it would be appropriate and beneficial to our area if the LDP was to consider the land adjacent to the A701 corridor and also award it the protection of an SLA.

Our second point relates to SBC declaring a climate emergency in September of last year.

LNKCC fully supports this decision and given that the revised LDP will be the standard against which developments will be measured in our area for the next decade, we commend SBC for signing up to sustainability goals.

LNKCC would ask that climate emergency be pivotal within the LDP; challenge the LDP's emphasis on economics by pointing to Scottish and national policy which commits councils to balancing economic, social and environmental factors.

The Community Council also requests the LDP acknowledge the value of the small pockets of woodland within our Borders Towns and their benefits to both people and wildlife.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Chair

