



11.01.2021

The Forward Planning Team
Corporate Improvement and Economy
Scottish Borders Council
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, Scottish Borders Council 2021

Sir.

In 2013, a group of residents local to the West Linton area submitted a proposal for land on the west side of the Cloich Hills (the Lyne Catchment) to be classed a Special Landscape Area (SLA) on the grounds of its similarity to adjacent areas with landscape designations. We recognized this as being a key landscape element in the route to Edinburgh from the south, visible from the Pentland SLA etc. Our proposal was turned down.

I believe the time has come to revisit our original proposal, for two reasons.

First, I believe the value of Landscape *per se* to wellbeing of citizens has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that changes in working practices will provide those newly working from home greater opportunities to exercise and explore outdoors.

Second, because of the change in the patterns of landscape designations by the neighbouring Midlothian Authority. In particular, the easterly extension of the Pentland Hills SLA as far as Leadburn, and the creation of the Gladhouse etc SLA to the east of that, leaves a salient in between, along the line of and to the east of the A701 which has NO designation. This then becomes peculiarly vulnerable to development.

With this letter, I include:

- Our original 2013 "Proposal to Extend SLA Tweedsmuir Uplands into Lyne Catchment". Digital on a CD, and one printed copy
- Copies of two maps from the Midlothian Local Development Plan, Oct 2018: Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance
- A photograph taken in January 2021 of the Cloich Hills, to highlight their extraordinary beauty.

I am not suggesting that you confine your review to the areas we described as the Lyne Catchment in our 2013 paper, although the arguments we made then about the landscape, and its assessment by LUC are, we believe, as relevant now as they were then. Instead, we would ask you to take an holistic view of the A701 corridor and give it the protection it clearly deserves. In doing so, you would also preserve that very special landscape which we defined as the Lyne Catchment.

Your



Jim Pratt MBE