



SENT BY E-MAIL (localplan@scotborders.gov.uk) AND BY AIR MAIL

January 8, 2021

Scottish Borders Council
Forward Planning
Council Headquarters
Newton St. Boswells
Scottish Borders
Scotland TD6 0SA

Re: Proposal AGAL029: Netherbarns in the Local Development Plan

Dear Council Members:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to express the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation's opposition to this proposal.

I am an attorney in Wichita, Kansas (I have worked extensively with land use issues) and am President of the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"). The Foundation supports the Abbotsford Trust; the National Museums Scotland; the National Library of Scotland; and the National Galleries of Scotland. I serve on the board of directors of the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland. The Foundation was a significant contributor to the National Galleries of Scotland's project to acquire the "Monarch of the Glen" for the Scottish people.

Growing up, I had a deep interest in my Scottish heritage. My great-aunt would tell me that I had ancestors buried in Melrose Abbey and would also tell me that I had ancestors that were involved in building beautiful Abbotsford. She would often recount her visits to Abbotsford and tell me about the magnificent and historic view from Abbotsford towards the Tweed. As she would say, "you can almost feel yourself walking with Sir Walter himself through the home, garden and estates. How many places can you visit where you actually feel that you have stepped back in time?"

As a student in 1976, I had the opportunity to visit Abbotsford and to become acquainted with Patricia Maxwell-Scott and Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott (great, great, great granddaughters of Sir Walter Scott). I will never forget that visit and particularly my joy in seeing the views that my great-aunt enjoyed so immensely. A number of years ago, the Foundation became aware of the restoration that was taking place at Abbotsford and decided to become involved in that project. Since that time, the Foundation has been one of the largest donors to the Abbotsford Trust. My two daughters (who are also trustees of the Foundation) have also had the opportunity to experience Abbotsford and are also committed to the organization. Most recently, the Foundation was intimately involved in the restoration of Abbotsford's woodlands and paths for the delight and wellbeing of visitors and the local community.

I have been aware of the issues relating to this matter for several years and feel that it would be a travesty for the Council to approve this proposal. I have had the opportunity to review portions of Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) and the reasons for the Abbotsford Trust's objections to the same. The major assumptions in LDP2 are incorrect. This proposal would have a hugely negative impact on Abbotsford with its associated light, sound and visual intrusions. It is impossible for one to imagine that a thin screen of trees would hide this project from the many visitors and members of the local community who enjoy the building and stroll its beautiful grounds. Abbotsford is a national treasure of Scotland (particularly of the Scottish Borders) and provides a very tangible benefit to the local economy. It would be a pity to see this idyllic setting destroyed by this project!

