

7 February, 2014

Quarries Action Group (QAG)  
Castlelaw Steading  
Dolphinton Road  
West Linton  
Peeblesshire  
EH46 7AA.

To Martin Wanless  
Forward Planning Manager  
Department of Environment and Infrastructure,  
Scottish Borders Council  
Newtown St. Boswells,  
Melrose TD6 0SA.

Dear Mr. Wanless,

**PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - Vol. 1, Policies 2013**

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 2013 bringing the above to our notice, and for the opportunity to comment. We at QAG have studied the document and broadly support the aims and policies set out, especially with respect to the SBC's proposals to protect the special natural and cultural heritage of the Borders. In particular we strongly support the following statements and policies:

**2. MEETING THE CHALLENGES FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

- P.12 ENVIRONMENT Paras 2.11 – 2.14 including Key Outcomes 7 and 8

**3. VISIONS, AIMS AND SPATIAL STRATEGY**

- P.16 Para 3.7
- P.16 Para 3.9 - Local Development Plan Aims No. 6 (To protect and enhance the natural and built environment)

**4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES**

- PLACE MAKING AND DESIGN (PMD)
  - P.23 Policy PMD1 – SUSTAINABILITY
    - Para C (The protection of natural resources, landscapes, habitats and species)
  - P.24 Policy PMD2 – QUALITY STANDARDS
    - Para K (It is compatible with, and respects the character of the surrounding area, neighbouring uses, and neighbouring built form)
    - Para M (It provides appropriate boundary treatments to ensure attractive edges to the development that will help integration with its surroundings)
    - Para U (It retains physical or natural features or habitats which are important to the amenity or biodiversity of the area or makes provision for adequate mitigation or replacements)
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ED)
  - P. 69 Policy ED12 – MINERAL AND COAL EXTRACTION
    - Para 1.1 QAG supports this statement and would recommend the following addition in light of recent experiences in South Lanarkshire:  
*Approvals for the extraction of minerals should only be granted where adequate financial provision is in place (e.g. dependable secure bonding) to ensure prompt and thorough restoration on the conclusion of any mineral working.*
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION (EP)

QAG supported the landscape designations in SBC's Supplementary Planning Guidance of July 2012 which were subsequently approved by SBC, and strongly support the following policies:

  - P.90 Policy EP4 – NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS and P.92 Policy EP5 – SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

Yours sincerely,

Archie Hunter (Chairman, QAG)