



'Glendale Cottage'
Houndwood,
Nr. Reston,
Berwickshire., TD14 5TP

9th December, 2013

For the attention of Mark Wanless,
Plans and Research Team,
Council Headquarters,
Newtown St. Boswells,
MELROSE.,
Scottish Borders., TD6 OSA

Dear Mr. Wanless,

We were very surprised and concerned to receive your letter of 2nd December, 2013, regarding the proposed site for the extension of the burial ground adjacent to Houndwood Church , showing the proposed plan for this project.

We have to object strongly to this proposal, as not only is the site too close to our own property, and directly underneath the window of 'Glenside Flat' ., which is part of our small business (Visitor attraction of Tea-room and Fuchsia Centre), but the letter we received from you has been the first we have heard of the plan – although when speaking to your colleagues, Mr. Charles Johnson, on Friday, 6th December, and a lady in the Planning Office this morning, whose name I unfortunately I did not obtain, both informed me that the proposal has been in existence since 2011, and perhaps even before that. We purchased our property in 1996, and at no time was there ever any indication that the field adjacent to our house, belonging to our neighbour Mr. John Brown, would be used for any purpose other than Mr. Brown would wish as the intended field has always been for the use of his farm.

Our own property, 'Glendale Cottage' will be hemmed in on three sides by the graveyard if the proposal goes ahead, We were quite aware, when we purchased the property in 1996, that we were next to a working Church, with graveyard on two sides, and any extension to the graveyard would be towards the back of the existing land, and would not be encroaching any further onto our home and garden , and 'Glenside Flat', which is part of our business, would continue to have the same outlook as when it was constructed in 1999/2000. We are very aware that, as the proposed site is directly underneath the kitchen window of 'Glenside Flat', anyone occupying the flat may find the graveyard beneath their window, and all the workings entailed with burials, may find all very distressing. Our present occupier, Miss Victoria Ross, is on Disability benefits and of a highly nervous disposition, and is already quite worried about the proposed development. We feel that anyone else thinking of renting the property may feel the same.

On another consideration, the field in question is prone to flash flooding, and occasionally, our Tea-room, which is alongside the plot of land, has been flooded – causing us to close our business until ‘moppings up’ have been done. The water cascades straight over from the field, through the stone wall, and onto the Houndwood road, where it generally runs straight down towards the Church. Another obstacle may be the electric pylon just installed, due to electricity cuts during bad weather, and to serve Houndwood Church, as you are aware, is now Houndwood Crematorium.

At no time, I wish to reiterate, were we made aware of any other plans for development of the graveyard, and object robustly to the fact that others in the vicinity appeared to have known of this proposal for some time.

I await your comments with interest and concern, and hope that you may be able to alleviate the situation.

Yours sincerely,



HEATHER A. ARGENT (Mrs.)
For L.C. AND H.A. ARGENT