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Mr Alistair White  
12 Harleyburn Court  
Melrose  
TD6 9JQ

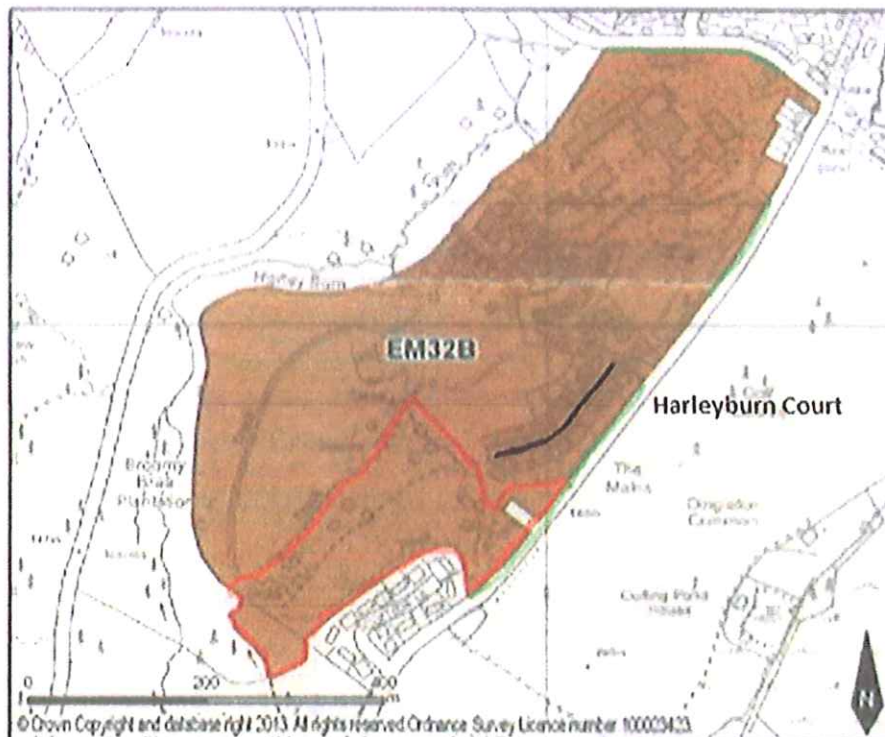
Martin Wanless  
Plans & Research Team  
Environment & Infrastructure  
Scottish Borders Council  
Newton St Boswells  
TD6 0SA

8th January 2014

**Site Code: EM32B**

Dear Mr Wanless,

I received your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 with a map showing the site reference EM32B, currently under development for new build housing by Pincraven/Rivertree Development. We live within the development and our road: Harleyburn Court borders a woodland area to the west. I have included your map with some annotations:



The area of land within the red boundary is that of the woodland that Harleyburn Court meets at the end of the road. The green lines indicated areas of continuing deterioration to the stone built wall that forms the boundary of the land owned by the property developer Pincraven/Rivertree Development.

I would be grateful if you would assist me in understanding the following:

1. What action is being taken by the Council against the owner of the boundary wall to ensure the wall is maintained to a standard that complies with Public safety regulations? Some areas of the wall have already collapsed and would be obvious to any quick inspection. Other areas of the wall are deteriorating although may be a year or two from collapse. All I would say constitute a Health & Safety hazard, especially given the use of the pathway as a route for school children from Dingleton and Scottsdale in reaching the pickup/drop off point for Earlston High school bus.
2. The area within the red boundary is a woodland and I would say is unsuitable for residential development, although given the voracious appetite for developers to develop any and all land I would not be surprised if the woodland was decimated to make way for "executive housing". In this regard to what extent is the Council prepared to adapt the Proposed Local Development Plan to exclude this area of woodland from future housing development?

As far as I am aware the Pincraven planning permission for Phase 3 & 4 does not extend to developing within this woodland area, although the Proposed Local Development Plan as currently indicated on site EM32B would allow them to include this at a later date and indeed market and sell the land as suitable for development.

I look forward to your response at the earliest opportunity, especially given the nature of point 1.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Alistair White