

Southdean Community Council Consultation Response to The Local Development Plan

Textual Comments

2. Meeting the Challenges for the Scottish Border-

Paragraph 2.8 (the online numbers slightly different to actual document in some cases)

Southdean CC welcomes the recognition of the role that traditional rural activities have upon Scottish Borders life, and the challenges they face.

Paragraph 2.16

Southdean CC is fully supportive of the creation of the Special Landscape Areas in General, and the Teviot Valleys SLA in particular, with the local area being threatened by a seemingly uncontrolled supply of wind farm applications. The landscape has always had high recognition from local residents, so gaining SLA status has provided a real boost. What the community is also being affected by is an onslaught by wind farm developers with several schemes being considered at the same time and the Local Development Plan would inject a degree of realism into the current situation which from a local perspective is simply appears out of control.

Paragraph 2.21

Southdean CC is acutely aware of the increased flood risk, highlighted by the recent spell of very wet weather. Run off from upland fields was the major contributor to local issues, and the CC identified the need for more regular clearance of drains , and below hedgerows which would alleviate the issues. Liaison with farmers in higher risk locations is also suggested.

Paragraph 2.22

Southdean CC totally agrees with this paragraph and fully supports the inclusion of this robust and structured background study in formulating renewables policy.

2. Visions , Aims and Spatial Strategy – Paragraph 3.7

Southdean CC fully supports the comments made here, in protecting the environment and leaving a legacy.

6. Economic Development (ED- 6.3 ED3 : Town centres and Shopping Development – Paragraph 6.3.6

Southdean CC supports and encourages Town Centre development in both Hawick and Jedburgh, which are both main shopping destinations for local residents.

6.6 ED: Digital Connectivity – paragraph 6.6.1

This is a major source of concern for Southdean CC, and something that is a major priority. With interrupted land line supply for a significant period, and no mobile signal capability for a part of the community, Southdean CC recognises the need for a better communication network. As a rural community it also needs that facility, and would expect it to be a priority in any upgrading , after the recent experience left many of the community somewhat disillusioned, and feeling vulnerable.

6.7 ED7: Business, Tourism and Leisure development in the Countryside

Southdean CC encourages developments which protect, enhance the Scottish Borders natural and Cultural Heritage.

6.9 ED9 : Renewable Energy Development –

Paragraph 6.9.5

Southdean CC considers Policy ED9 has provided a balanced renewables policy and has reflected the concern over the effect on the landscape, whilst considering generation targets.

Paragraph 6.9.6

The Ironside Farrar study is an extremely robust and comprehensive piece of work, and the SPG on Wind Energy should reflect the detailed conclusion from the landscape study, in addition to being adapted to the new SPP.

Paragraph 6.9.7

Southdean CC welcomes the publication of a map which gives a clear guidance where developers should consider applications and to what scale.

Paragraph 6.9.8

Southdean CC does query the wider range of areas which have capacity of up to 50 metres high, but is very supportive of the limited capacity locally for very large turbines. The extensive study by Ironside Farrar has put on paper what residents of Southdean CC have felt for some time. Their conclusions have also validated a number of recent applications which were rejected because the developments were too large for the landscape in which they were to be positioned. Looking through the original background document, map 6.3 seemed somewhat inconsistent locally, when compared with all the other maps, although the others are the ones that have been brought forward to the LDP.

We hope that developers take heed of the local guidelines in considering where to file applications and take note of the Landscape Character Unit comments for the Ironside Farrar study which justify and give clarity to the maps from a location perspective.

Paragraph 6.9.9

Southdean CC found the whole study extremely useful.

Paragraph 6.9.11

Southdean CC is supportive of Policy ED9 as it is currently structured.

Paragraph 6.10 ED10: protection of Agricultural Land and Carbon Rich Soils.

Paragraph. 6.10.4

Southdean CC queries the colour designations of the map, and suggests they may have been inverted.

8 Environmental Promotion and Protection (EP) – 8.3 EP3: Local Biodiversity

Southdean CC endorses this policy in its entirety.

8 . Environmental Promotion and Protection (EP)-

8.4 EP4 : National Scenic Areas

Southdean CC would be supportive of any initiative which would look to extend the number of National Scenic Areas in the Borders region, with the location of the Cheviots finding particular favour.

8.5 EP5 Special Landscape Areas

Southdean CC supported the candidacy of the Teviot Valleys SLA, and now supports policies that will protect and enhance it, and welcomes the additional benefits that it brings to the area.

8.8 EP8 Archaeology

Cultural heritage in the local area does need protecting, and Southdean CC welcomes the detailed principles in this policy.

9. Infrastructure and Standards (IS⁸)

9.8 Flooding

Southdean CC area has recently been affected by run off from fields causing localised flooding in a significant way, and the community is looking to ensure that aspect is properly addressed as part of the future, with increased investment where appropriate.

9.8.5 (158)

Southdean CC wishes to see greater focus on run off.

The recent local experience of run off causing flooding indicated that more investment is required to tackle some of the issues at a local level, and more consultation with farmers to ensure the issue can be contained where appropriate

Yours Faithfully
Philip Kerr
Vice Chairman