

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 January 2019 16:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Objection to proposal to include Netherbarns AGALA029 in the new Local plan

Hi, it has just been pointed out to me that Planning once again proposes to build houses, and possibly a primary school ,at Netherbarns ,site ref. AGALA029. Looking back over The Southern Reporter and Border Telegraph from as recent as 2015 I thought this had been vetoed after the Scottish government enquiry, until 2024 or 2027 at the earliest ?

To propose to build that amount of houses and a school next to " The Tweed Conservation Area " and overlooking Abbotsford, the number 1 tourist attraction in the Borders does not seem right .

Surely the school ,which I assume is to replace St Peters ,should be part of the campus for a new Galashiels Academy. Also ,the main road is heavily congested at the moment and couldn't handle the increased car and pedestrian traffic, apart from being too far out of town to safely walk to.

Abbotsford is a world famous tourist attraction, which has had £15 million spent on the house , visitor centre and surrounding paths. As someone who uses the area a lot I can assure you that from Abbotsford you can see right into the Nether Barns field even in the Summer when the trees are in full leaf. Imagine the view only yards away if there are 45 stark white houses and a school to look on to with the resultant constant noise , traffic,smells and litter. (Remember how the view from the Eildons was spoiled by the big white houses at Dingleton, or take a walk round Gala Acad. and Policies to see the litter and constant noise and traffic.) What is now a popular ,tranquil walk along the river via the new Abbotsford paths will become a cacophony of noise and visual pollution. Planting along the site boundary will take years to establish itself and will not alleviate the problem as from Abbotsford and the high paths you are looking down right into the site .

Finally ,with the establishment of the new railway and the coming of the Tapestry the aim of making Galashiels, Abbotsford, Melrose the growing tourist heart of the Borders will be destroyed if the jewel in the crown is to be blighted by a view of urban sprawl over what used to be attractive Greenbelt .

Thanks for passing on my concerns about the urbanisation of our wonderful Borderlands.

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