

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 January 2019 15:37

To: localplan <localplan@scotborders.gov.uk>

Subject: Main Issues Report - Comments

Thank you for providing an opportunity for comments on the draft Main Issues Report.

We recognise significant input has been provided through consultation workshops (which we were unfortunately not able to attend) and community council/organisational submissions. However, we do want to personally comment on two specific items which we consider to be important initiatives for Scottish Borders Council to consider. By way of context we live within the Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council area (north of Newcastleton) and these two items have direct impact on our quality of future life within the Scottish Borders...and certainly deserve full consideration and, in our opinion, adoption in the progressive planning process now underway.

In particular, we refer to the following:

1. National Park (Section 7, pp. 78,79 – Q 14). We have followed this initiative closely and fully support the designation of a new National Park within the Scottish Borders. The proposed coverage area has been developed to capture the key components of our remote, oft-overlooked and invaluable part of Scotland and the UK. In addition, the comprehensive positive outcomes of the National Park fit perfectly within the assessment criteria of the Main Issues Report, specifically “to encourage new growth and investment while preserving and enhancing the unique landscape and built heritage that characterises the Scottish Borders.” Therefore in response to Q14: Yes, we support the National Park designation within the general area of the Scottish Borders proposed for consideration.
2. Dark Skies Promotion (New Policy p.106, Q18). We directly benefit from “Dark Skies” where we live, so we fully appreciate the absolute wonder of this very special area within the Scottish Borders. The recent highlighted UK-wide (and perhaps international) television/online coverage given to the Keilder Observatory during the Blood Red Moon eclipse is proof that “Dark Skies” captures the imagination of a vast number of people....and has the potential to become a world-class attraction for our unique part of Scotland This too fits perfectly the Main Issues Report assessment criteria. Therefore in response to Q18: We wholeheartedly support the promotion of “Dark Skies” within the Scottish Borders and submit there is full justification for carrying out further investigation for the preparation, and adoption, of a “Dark Skies” policy.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]