

Archived: 13 January 2021 20:20:44

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed, 13 Jan 2021 19:30:41 +0000ARC

To:

Subject: Objection to Hollybush Development Plans

Sensitivity: Normal

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am emailing to express my concern about the planned development at Hollybush and the Gala Policies, detailed in the attached document.

The Gala Policies and the adjoining fields at Hollybush have been a much needed area of breathing space for many during the lockdown. Green space is known for its benefits to our physical and mental well-being. The Gala Policies, Hollybush and Gala Hill provide an essential area of recreational ground for many people in Galashiels.

Having worked in nature conservation for most of my career, I also have a good understanding of the importance the many habitats that the Gala Policies and surrounding fields provide for our dwindling wildlife. During recent walks in the area, I have enjoyed seeing a wide range of birdlife, including recently observing a flock of crossbill in the conifer plantation at the edge of the Policies. Any disruption of the current habitat in this area is likely to have an impact on wildlife by reducing the habitat available to them.

On page 317 the plans also detail the need for flood management measures in Galashiels. The current research into natural flood management shows that any increase in hard surfacing will reduce interception and storage of water and increase the rate of run off, thus exacerbating flooding. This should be considered seriously in the planning of any development at Hollybush as it could potentially have an effect on the current flooding problems in the town.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objections to the attached plans. I hope that the planners will reconsider this development for a more appropriate location.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Coyle.