

Response ID ANON-VDDE-RA93-2

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**

Submitted on **2021-01-24 13:00:20**

About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Individual

Individual

What is your name?

Individual name:

Catriona Elizabeth McKay

What is your email address?

Individual Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your address?

Address line 1:

[REDACTED]

Address line 2 :

[REDACTED]

Address line 3:

[REDACTED]

Town / city:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

What is your contact telephone number?

Contact number:

[REDACTED]

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Leave a quick comment about the Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan, or planning and development in general.....

Quick Comment:

Congratulations on such a comprehensive and far-reaching Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) for the Scottish Borders. As a resident of the Scottish Borders, please find enclosed my comments on LDP2.

The past 12 months have highlighted as never before the devastating issues of climate change and biodiversity loss; from the global COVID-19 pandemic to our failure as a country and globally to meet the 2010 Aichi Targets to the overwhelming body of scientific evidence that demonstrates the severity of the environmental crisis that we face. It is clear, that to address the environmental crisis, we need a unified response, we need to act with a sense of urgency, and we need effective and truly transformative change.

The SBC's LDP2 presents an unmissable opportunity to take action to preserve the amenity of our towns and protect our local natural environment and is critical to the future of the Scottish Borders as it sets out the land use and planning policies for the next 10 years against.

As part of my comments, I fully endorse the detailed comments made by [REDACTED].

In addition, I would like to register the following comments:

- We need a local planning framework that fully embraces environmental sustainability, and we need this now, not at some undisclosed time in the future when we are well and truly past the point of no return.
- LDP2 needs to acknowledge the twin threats of the climate emergency and biodiversity loss.
- LDP2 needs to reference SBC's declaration of a climate emergency on 25 September 2020.
- LDP2 needs to reflect Scottish Government's own environmental policy by adopting the UN SDGs as part of its own overarching goals and mission statement.
- We need to stop prioritising economic growth over the environment. Language in the LDP2 that preferentially benefits economic considerations over environmental sustainability needs to change; specifically, Section 8.5 (page 34), which emphasis the need for 'practicality' over sustainability thereby undermining decision making powers of SBC's new Sustainable Development Committee.
- There needs to be an automatic rejection of all future planning applications that involve the destruction of natural habitats; including applications that threaten the last remaining pockets of precious native and semi-native woodland in Borders towns and countryside.
- SBC needs to enforce existing laws that protect conservation areas and trees that are covered by Tree Preservation Orders and stop rescinding TPOs in favour of developers.
- I would suggest that you revisit all current planning applications with approval in principle that involve the destruction of natural habitats or felling of mature trees/woodlands.

It seems obvious that the climate emergency should be front and centre of all future development and planning policy. After all, we simply do not have another decade to get things right when it comes to taking action to protect the environment.

Do you wish to submit supporting information?

Submissions:

No file was uploaded

Where would you like to go now?

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)

Comment on Sites in Settlements F to H

Which Site are you commenting on?

Settlements F to H:

Galashiels: GSGALA009: Gala Policies: Greenspace

What are your comments regarding this site?:

I was appalled to learn that there are plans to run a road through the woodlands in the Gala policies. This area is listed on your plans as a Key Green Space.

According to your own current LDP, Policy EP11 Protection of Key Greenspace.

1.2 The Local Development Plan identifies Key Greenspaces within Development Boundaries. The spaces identified within the Plan are those spaces which are considered to be of greatest value to the community and are therefore worthy of protection. It is intended that within Key Greenspaces only proposals that will enhance the space will be supported by the Council.

In light of the current climate emergency and devastating loss of biodiversity, in no way can driving a road through a woodland, or supporting any development that leads to the destruction of habitat be considered an enhancement of this space.

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)

Comment on Sites in Settlements P to Z

Which Site are you commenting on?

Sites P-Z:

What are your comments regarding this Site? :

What would you like to do now?

Proposed Local Development Plan Menu (includes Exit option)