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Development Management

13 NOV 2015

Date.....

Ref No. WL/LDP/PP/0099

Ref To.....

Ack'd.....

Replied.....

Development Planning and Environment Manager  
Development Planning  
West Lothian Council  
Civic Centre  
Howden South Road  
LIVINGSTON  
EH54 6FF

Dear Sir/ Madam,

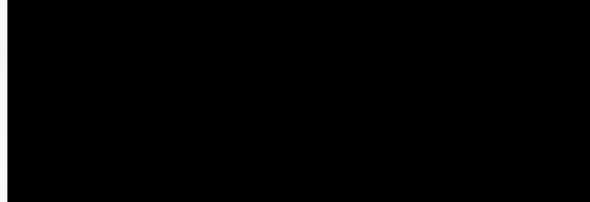
**PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AT EASTER MURIESTON, LIVINGSTON  
REF:H-LV 3, MURIESTON SOUTH(8), TARBET DRIVE**

We were recently disappointed to read that West Lothian Council are once again considering developing the contaminated land between Tarbert Drive and Teviot Drive. In January 2008 we wrote to your then Head of Planning setting out why we thought that that area should not be developed, and we believe that most, if not all, of those reasons still stand. A copy of that letter is attached for your information.

Since then, we understand that an independent consultant has recommended that the site be de-allocated as suitable for development, and that your own council made a Tree Preservation Order in respect of the trees on this land which contribute so much to the appearance and quality of the environment there.

We have been Murieston residents for almost 40 years. While we appreciate the need for new housing, particularly at the more affordable end of the market, we strongly believe that the area in question should be de-zoned for any future development. As we said in our previous letter, the Council should surely be protecting and maintaining such beautiful leisure areas which have helped attract people and industry to the town.

Yours faithfully



Peter & Mary Cunningham.



[REDACTED]

11 January 2008

Mr Chris Norman  
Head of Planning  
West Lothian Council  
County Buildings  
LINLITHGOW  
EH49 6QT

Dear Mr Norman,

**PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AT EASTER MURIESTON, LIVINGSTON  
REF:1269/FUL/07**

We have been [REDACTED] residents for more than 30 years. While we appreciate the need for new housing, particularly at the more affordable end of the market, we are writing to object in the strongest terms to the proposed development at Easter Murieston, Livingston. The reasons for our objection are set out below.

- a) The area is a highly prized area of natural beauty, bordering on the highly prized Murieston Trail which is used and enjoyed by local residents and by others from further afield. Your own Council's local plan specifies it as an area of special landscape control.
- b) Many mature trees currently enjoyed by residents and walkers would be removed although they are subject of a Preservation Order.
- c) Similarly, the large and long-established expanse of snowdrops which will soon be in bloom, and which are also under a Preservation Order, would be destroyed.
- d) The removal of the trees would no doubt affect the local bat population which can be seen flying around that area in the evenings.
- e) The area contains thousands of tons of soil contaminated by heavy metals and other toxins. These would have to be removed by hundreds of lorries, putting at risk the neighbours, particularly pregnant women and the infants at the nearby Community Centre and Nursery School. (This is an area housing very many young families.)
- f) The planned housing is for 4 or 5 bedroomed houses, ie for more young families, but the local school is over-subscribed.
- g) Lastly, we are very concerned that the Council seems to be favouring this proposal against the advice given by its own officials when a similar development was proposed earlier. The main difference between the two proposals seems to be that the current developer reportedly plans to make a financial contribution to the Council for its general fund for affordable housing and education accommodation. We find this very disturbing.

The Council should surely be protecting and maintaining such beautiful leisure areas which have helped attract people and industry to the town, not selling them off for some paltry contribution to its funds.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Peter & Mary Cunningham.