

From: [REDACTED]
To: wlldp
Subject: Comments on proposed West Lothian LDP
Date: 17 November 2015 20:04:27

I would like to raise a number of objections concerning the proposed designation of site H-LL4 (fields to South of Oatlands Park, Linlithgow) for housing development.

This area includes land designated as "Prime Agricultural Land" (<http://www.soils-scotland.gov.uk>) and as such I think it is a short-sighted use of an important resource for future sustainability.

The area is also clearly marked as an "Area of Great Landscape Value" in the existing West Lothian Local Plan and so I do not believe it should be altered in such a fundamental manner.

It is my belief that large-scale development in this area of Linlithgow would also place considerable strain on the existing infrastructure of the town. The capacity of existing schools, nurseries and after school care is already stretched and the addition of considerable new housing stock would only increase this burden. Transport infrastructure, including station parking and the pinch point where Manse Road crosses the union canal, would also be adversely affected by the addition of traffic.

The location of the development at the extreme edge of Linlithgow would also severely limit the accessibility of the area to the town. The pedestrian access down Manse road is narrow and very steep - at busy periods it can feel positively dangerous when walking with my small children. Locating new housing even further up the hill will mean no viable access to the town other than by car.

Lastly, I would like to say that I think development in this area (and others surrounding the town) risk destroying the very things which make Linlithgow an attractive place to live. The town has a real sense of place and community which I think is enhanced by its focus on the local high street. It also offers easy access to beautiful areas in the surrounding countryside such as Beecraigs Country Park. The existing town boundaries (such as the historic Spinney and Glebe House estates on Manse road) offer a scenic gateway to the town: expansion beyond these clearly defined borders will blur this distinction between town and country.

I hope you will take these comments into consideration as part of your consultation.

Kind regards,

Luke Smallwood

[REDACTED]