



17.11.15

W.L.C.

DARS GROUP SUPPORT

20 NOV 2015

WLC / LDP / PP / 0272

0272

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Consultation on Local Development Plan

I am writing to object to the Local Development Plan for Linlithgow which is undergoing consultation. Linlithgow does NOT currently have the infrastructure in place to cope with the number of houses proposed by WLC in this plan. To just add houses, people and cars without improving the road network and dealing with the lack of capacity within the health centre facilities and primary and secondary schools will only exacerbate the current issues in these areas. It is a short-sighted approach and does not show any understanding of the issues that currently exist for Linlithgow Residents.

In particular, the WLC plan for housing in the area behind Oatlands Park and Clarendon is just not feasible with access through Clarendon. The bridge over the canal at Manse Road is already a bottle neck and pedestrians on the bridge are also vulnerable because of the closeness of the traffic and the lack of visibility for traffic approaching the bridge. To add more traffic to this route will only increase the risks to pedestrians, including children walking to school, and reduce the flow of traffic at bottle necks such as the bridge and Back Station Road.

Capacity at the GPs surgery at Linlithgow Health Centre is already an issue. How can they accommodate hundreds of additional patients? There is the same issue with space at Low Port Primary school. There is no spare capacity for the additional children that would be brought into the catchment area by these new houses. The same applies for Linlithgow Academy.

There have already been hundreds of new houses built during the last 10 years despite "constraint" in the local development plan without any improvements to the infrastructure of the town. The roads around Linlithgow are frequently congested, especially the High Street. The addition of further housing WILL exacerbate the congestion round Linlithgow and it's High Street.

The proposed development by Gladman beside Clarendon and Oatlands Park has recently been rejected by WLC and by the Scottish Government. Nothing has changed in the few months since the Scottish Government's decision so I don't understand why do WLC think it is now reasonable to propose similar development in their plan?

WL/LDP/PP/0272

In addition, the area which borders Oatlands Park is a Greenfield site beyond the current settlement boundary. It occupies land currently designated as an "Area of Great Landscape Value" (AGLV) (or Special Landscape Area). The Strategic Environmental Assessment states that the skyline is an integral part of the AGLV as it meets Linlithgow. It is also Prime Agricultural Land, an irreplaceable natural resource. This area is also known to be home to protected species, in particular bats and badgers.

Yours sincerely

