

From: [REDACTED]
To: wildp
Subject: Linlithgow HLL-12 Preston Farm Field
Date: 22 November 2015 20:45:32

Hi;

I am making this submission as an individual representing my own views. This is my first representation on the proposed plans.

I am writing this objection to any development going up on Preston Farm Fields. I have lived in [REDACTED] now for 15 years previously down in [REDACTED] where I would look up the hill and see the fields running up to Preston House and then Cockleroy in the distance which was an outstanding view and gave the experience that even though I was in the middle of a housing estate I was never far from the countryside and the fields which is why you come to live in a town like Linlithgow. It was easy to understand why these fields were covered under the Area of Great Landscape Value by the councils very own Environmental Department.

I completely understand that we have to increase our housing stock to keep up with demand but the councils choice of suddenly taking away the status of AGLV and proposing it for possible development is astounding and completely unbelievable, is it now the councils policy that the long standing protection given by this status is not really any protection at all as it seems to disappear when anyone with a half baked idea and enough money comes along. I recently attended the Linlithgow Planning Forum and saw the civic alternative to the councils plans and was pleased to see that someone has actually thought about the present and future needs for housing in Linlithgow and the logistics that goes along with it and not just picked a protected field without any thought for the consequences.

I have several arguments with regards to this proposed development;

My first being the breaking of the councils own policy with regards to the AGLV, I would be very interested who gave the go ahead for this to be done and speak to them on why they think they can do this, also as they are going against their own policy leaving themselves open for a legal challenge which they will get if this proposal continues.

My next point is regards to the increase in traffic that this development could bring with my main objection regarding Preston Road, as a driver who uses Preston Road every day the road can be bad enough throughout the rest of the day but during the school times this can become horrendous and the thought of possibly adding another 100-150 cars using this road as access during these times is truly terrifying, this also hugely increases the risk to the school children.

Further points that I have against this development is the increased risk of flooding below the canal, with a huge area developed any water coming down the hill won't have a chance to soak into anywhere and will then end up at the lower area of [REDACTED] or directly in the canal and then down into the Braehead estate this could have horrendous consequences for all the house below the canal.

My final point that i have is regarding the agricultural land that is going to be lost and a habitat for a huge number of species including badgers and bats which are protected and a huge number of other animals that although they are not protected do have a diminishing habitat and we should keep as much of it as possible.

I truly hope that the council see's sense and returns this beautiful piece of land back to an AGLV before it is too late.

Many Thanks

Gavin Miller
[REDACTED]