

email

13 October 2014

**West Lothian Council Planning Department
Consultation on Main Issues Report**

I am writing as an individual. My comments apply to Linlithgow.

Overall, I think the 'area of restraint' on development around Linlithgow should be continued as the town made its contribution to new housing stock in West Lothian back in the 60s, 70s and 80s. The High Street cannot absorb much more traffic or the High School more pupils. I am also concerned at the loss of prime agricultural land. Given food pressures throughout the world, it is no small matter to build on productive fields.

However, some expansion is needed, not least for young people who have grown up in the Linlithgow and wish to raise their own children here. Many people, now in their sixties, live in the house in which they brought up their family. They want to remain in Linlithgow, but now find their current house too big. What the town needs are more flats. McCarthy and Stone have found strong demand for their kind of provision. Flats built close to the town centre would attract older people out of their three and four-bedroom properties, thus releasing these houses on to the market.

On Edinburgh Road, developing site EOI 0062, the old Jet Station, should be a priority, with a basement garage and at least four stories of flats. Developers should be encouraged to relocate the whisky bond and replace it with another tenemental type property. The increase in car traffic would be constrained as many of the residents would walk to the rail station or High Street, or drive out after the rush hour.

I agree Porterside EOI 0050 should not be developed. It is too steep and north facing. EOI 0114 should not be developed either. (In passing, I note the group of houses in which my own is located is shaded brown but the group at the top of Eastwood Brae is not. What does this mean?) The site is further from the town than some of the other sites. It is good land and while there is an existing access through Maidlands to the plot north of the canal, there is none to the plot south of the canal other than at the top of Eastwood Brae, ie Kerr's access.

To summarise: build more flats, as this will release houses for sale. Avoid building on prime agricultural land currently outwith the town.

Yours faithfully

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