

WLC REF:MIRQ0077

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 October 2014 18:14  
**To:** wlldp  
**Subject:** Local Development Plan responses

Dear WLC

I am e-mailing in response to the public consultation regarding the local development plan. I would particularly like to comment on the proposals for Linlithgow. Please find my responses to Q29-31 below, as I was unable to fill in the questionnaire electronically.

Q29: I believe the definition of Linlithgow as an 'area of restraint' should be retained. Whilst there is a demand for housing in the area, further large-scale development of Linlithgow will result in a significant change in the unique character of the town. There is a need for affordable housing in the area, and any development on land that is currently approved for housing should reflect this. Additional development beyond this will require major infrastructure changes which will have a detrimental effect on the quality of the environment in and around Linlithgow.

I am particularly concerned at proposals to develop sites outwith the current town boundary. There have been several attempts to develop land to the east of the town, but these have not been approved following local opposition. However, I wish to focus on a recent proposed development at Kettilstoun Mains, Linlithgow Bridge. This area has been extensively regenerated by Cemex over the past few years and is now an outstanding site of local biodiversity, including wooded areas, low lying water meadows and scrub land. The site is a haven for wildlife and has recently been planted with additional trees. The site is popular with local walkers (with or without dogs!) and links in to the John Muir Way and to the River Avon Heritage trail. It is also the site of the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge. Development of even a part of this would have a detrimental effect on the rest of it, including the exceptional habitats provided by the water meadows. Unfortunately I fear it would be included as a 'brownfield' site rather than a 'greenfield' agricultural site. I hope this would not put this exceptional and beautiful area at risk of development, particularly as it is increasingly used as an amenity area by local people.

I am unclear what exactly is meant by sequential development. However, I would support proposals to use land within the town boundaries rather than extend these boundaries for the provision of affordable housing.

Q30: There are some sites available in the town where housing could be considered (subject to adequate provision of schools etc). I would hope that the emphasis in developing any of these sites would be on lower-cost housing, which is very much needed in the town.

Q31: Any development at the eastern end of the town should include an extension of the the current M8 junction as the town is already very congested, particularly at peak times. Therefore land should be retained for this purpose (as seems to be the case at present). However, I do not feel finding funds for a new slip road is sufficient reason to promote new development.

Thank you for your attention to these points.

Yours sincerely

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