26th September 2014

**Development Management** 

West Lothian Council

**County Buildings** 

**High Street** 

Linlithgow

**EH49 7EZ** 

Dear Sir/Madam.

Re: Appeal against planning application Muirieston Road, Muirieston, Livingston

I believe that a Public consultation to outline the proposal for a housing development on behalf of Barratt David Wilson Homes and the landowner at Muirieston Road, Muirieston has been made in advance of a planning application.

I have rented the land involved in this planning application for a number of years from the landowner and can fully appreciate its suitability for housing as local amenities in this area are ideal.

I do have concerns for the wildlife; the plot of land is home to badgers and other wild life. Deer regularly graze this land. I know this is not a major priority in development but I can imagine it being a priority to the local wild life and the preservation of our natural habitat.

My main concern is that in 2013, this land was subjected to a large sink hole of great size. It measured approximately 12x25 foot and was rather deep, 25-40foot. At first I had thought the farmer had dug a hole but when I investigated it was so large and the farmer had informed me that all the rain had created the ground to collapse. Luckily none of his cattle had been injured.

This area was subjected to limestone mining; I believe the quarry was in this location as there is evidence of mine shafts within the field I rent. The dissolution of soluble rock such as limestone, dolomite and gypsum creates a karsts topography which causes sink holes. I worry about a reoccurrence of another sink hole as I graze my horses and the farmer grazes cattle. My concern

now is that people and there property could be affected if measures are not fully taken to rectify or avoid building on ground that is unsuitable to development .

I am in no doubt that you will give this matter your full attention. If you require any evidence regarding this sink hole, I have witnesses and photographic evidence.

**Yours Sincerely**