

COMMENTS ON MIR, local Development?

WICKREF: MIRA0243 12/10/2014

Given difficulties experienced completing & sending the questionnaire online, I am having to send my comments by post.

All my comments relate to Linlithgow.

• As there are already numerous infrastructure issues in Linlithgow, it is amazing that the Council is "pushing" further development by use of "preferred sites", without a detailed plan for infrastructure improvements in place.

• The "preferred sites" - an open door for land owners and developers - off Manse Rd, Edinburgh Rd, Wilcoxhill / Pilgrims Hill will have an enormous impact on the residents of both

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roads, and indeed the whole of the Upper Linnithgow and ~~Union~~ Canal Conservation Area - quite contrary to the statement in Main Issues 3, "protecting the area's built and natural heritage". There are no details of management of construction traffic in residential areas, nor road access to these sites.

• To comply with requirements for new houses Countywide, Linnithgow seems to have a disproportionate number of planned new houses on "preferred sites", relative to larger towns in the County, bearing in mind the Burghmuir appeal is still on going. Is this because planning gain will be higher here because of greater land prices in the Burgh? Should this plan go ahead, would all planning gain be ring fenced for Linnithgow?

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EDUCATION & HEALTH - Whilst the possible Winchburgh Academy may be open in 2019, there are no plans in evidence for transfer of pupils, expected dates for release of places at Linlithgow Academy, or change of catchment areas. Much of the future plans for Linlithgow appears to be dependent on the opening of this new school - a cause for concern. Whilst at meetings there are assurances that the primary schools will have the capacity to cope with this huge influx of young families, there is no evidence of feasibility studies // projections from nurseries and playgroups. The Health Centre has been raised as an issue - currently coping with numbers. It is in the perfect position for a town's health centre. Should more room be required why not extend or put on another storey?

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• A new railway station at Winchburgh would serve that town well, and would considerably ease the pressure at Linlithgow Station from commuters, and their need for parking.

It appears that many proposals in this MIR contradict the stated Vision and Aims and Guidelines from the Council. Linlithgow attracts many people to the County because of its historic and natural environment. This projected plan will only be to the detriment of the town, and so to the whole of West Lothian. I would ask that the restraint on further building be retained, and "preferred sites" be removed from any further long term plans. Short term planning gain is no excuse for blighting a beautiful, historic town.

Yours,  
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