

Response ID ANON-B3JU-DSQA-W

Submitted to **Local Development Plan Main Issues Report 2019 Consultation**
Submitted on **2019-05-11 15:10:59**

About You

What is your name?

Name:

Ian Smith

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

On behalf of:

How can we contact you?

Email:

[REDACTED]

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

Additional Documents

Please include comments on other documents below:

Please include comments on other documents below::

B1308 Royal Devenick Park Phase 1

Additional Files

If you have further information you would like to provide you may upload it here.:

Banchory Devenick - response to new development.docx was uploaded

My first objection to the proposed scheme is simply that there is no need for it. There are a number of housing developments in or near Aberdeen which are stalling due to lack of demand, including one nearby at Blairs. It appears that there are no major stimuli to local job creation on the horizon which may have attracted more people into the area and thus a demand for more housing. It would seem foolish to damage the environment and animal habitats without sufficient justification.

Other objections I am familiar with and agree with relate to the destruction of the historical environment of the Causey Mounth and the Tollochill Braes, once erased they cannot be replaced. Also, the loss of ancient woodlands in the Banchory Devenick area would occur as a result of proposed developments. Again, once gone they cannot be replaced. And, of course, the Causey Mounth and Tollochill Woods provide an attractive and enjoyable 'green gym' where people can walk and cycle. The Scottish Government itself used Parkinson's paper on the promotion of mental health in formulating current mental health policy and in this paper she identified the 'green gym' as being a very important factor in maintaining mental health. Indeed, related to this a number of years ago Aberdeen was voted as being one of the best areas in the UK for mental health and the main reason for that was easy and quick access to multiple 'green gym' areas such as Tollochill Woods. Other objections I agree with relate to the lack of services such as schools and linking roads. Provision of a new infrastructure for these would cause damage beyond that caused by the new housing itself.

If these objections are not sufficient then perhaps we all need to consider more widely and seriously what humans are doing to the natural world. It has been well documented that the 6th mass extinction is well under way and the cause of this is human encroachment into the space of other species and human environmental damage through construction and other activities (National Academy of the Sciences of the United States of America, 2017). Lest you think this is a problem which only occurs elsewhere in the world can I point out that the WWF state that in Scotland one in 11 species is at risk of extinction and many others are declining in numbers

(<https://www.wwf.org.uk/Scotland>)

The biggest argument of all is related to insects. They are a major part of the food chain and most people are familiar with the recent report (Sanchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys, in Biological Conservation, 2019) which showed that if insect loss continues to occur at current rates then all insects will be gone in 100 years, and, of course, so will all large species including ourselves. Urbanisation is a significant factor in this loss. You may think that this is irrelevant to the proposed project but it isn't. For it is the cumulation of countless thousands of projects such as this, *all in isolation from each other*, that have slowly and insidiously led to our current situation i.e. a 'drip, drip' situation of a myriad of planning departments in hundreds of countries throughout the world over the centuries mindlessly rubberstamping damaging building projects without giving sufficient emphasis to the environment and other species. We have put ourselves first at the expense of other species but forget that when they all die then we die.

We need to move to a model where new housing is based on renovating existing buildings to reduce resource usage or rebuilding on already developed space (by using space/resources creatively), and

that there should only be new housing developments in the countryside if without them humans would die or become ill, and that would be a rare situation indeed.

So change needs to happen and fast. We need to make the criteria for building projects on untouched land much tighter with much more emphasis on the protection of species and their habitats. And until that gets enacted we need to apply existing criteria as thoroughly and protectively as we can.