

From: [Blake, Jim](#)
To: [Blake, Jim](#)
Subject: 2 Houses on Bothwell Road, Hamilton
Date: 27 July 2021 09:36:06
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.png](#)

From: Whalley, Andy
Sent: 04 May 2021 16:40
To: Blake, Jim <Jim.Blake@southlanarkshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 2 Houses on Bothwell Road, Hamilton

Hi Jim,

I refer to the above planning application consultation and would comment as follows;
the proposal is unacceptable and should be refused.

Comments

The planning area is located in an area of woodland designated as a Tree Preservation Order, it should also be noted that the woodland is on the National Forestry Inventory.

I agree with the Biodiversity Officer that the site has a place in the landscape as a stepping stone of habitat in the existing woodland network. I also support the comments that the woodland at the site is at least a LEPO and may be of ancient origin. And comments that the ground flora, soil, microbes and fungi are likely to be irreplaceable biodiversity assets: new woodland will not recreate the habitat and that further investigation may determine the value of the woodland as a LEPO or AW.

There are considerable concerns in relation to development deforestation and the potential effects it could have on the ecology and landscape of local and wider environments. Scottish Planning Policy issued by Scottish Government, refers to the Control of Woodland Removal Policy which seeks to protect the existing forest resource in Scotland, and supports woodland removal only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefit. This has not been provided.

I support Scottish Forestry's response and that the proposal will result in the permanent deforestation of 16% of the woodland and the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Removal Policy should be taken into consideration. The applicants supporting statement notes that agreement to manage the remaining woodland will ensure a net benefit for the development. I agree with Scottish Forestry's response regarding this matter that permanently removing woodland results in a permanent net biodiversity loss, and not a gain.

Similarly to Forestry's response, the applicant noting an alternative to managing the remaining 84% of the woodland themselves by gifting 49% of the woodland area that is not part of the development footprint to the community for their own use and management. Again I support Scottish Forestry's comments that grants are unlikely to cover all the management and operational works required, and that additional funding or expertise may need to be sort for ongoing liabilities.

I do not disagree with the Arboricultural reports (25/11/2020) statements that the '*woodland has been judged to be group Category A (BS5837) as a whole*', and that '*most of the site dominated by trees Category A which are the key components of a good quality mature woodland.*' I am minded of the woodlands setting within the wider

landscape and streetscape.

There are few areas, greater than a few meters, that are not within the one or another tree root protection areas and that development would require significant tree removal to accommodate access roads and buildings. Furthermore opening up of the woodland and removing edge trees would predispose remaining trees to increased wind loading and potential failure. Furthermore future TPO applications concerned over perceived risk .

The impact of the trees on development, and of development on the trees has not been effectively considered. Retained trees may be considered overbearing, obstruct light levels and seasons nuisances such as leaf and seed may put the trees at future risk from application to remove or prune or disfigure the trees.

The development of this site would have significant and adverse impact on the visual amenity and landscape character associated and would undermine the integrity of the woodland which is of high Conservation value as a whole. Drawing all these matters together, I conclude that the proposal is unacceptable for the reasons stated and should be refused.

Kindest regards

Andy Whalley HND arb, MArborA

Arboricultural Officer

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