



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Central Scotland Conservancy
Bothwell House, Hamilton Business Park, Caird Park
Hamilton ML3 0QA

Email: centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot
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Conservator
Keith D Wishart FICFor

Mr Jim Blake
South Lanarkshire Council
Almada Street,
Hamilton,
South Lanarkshire,
ML3 0AA

Monday 1st February 2021

Planning Reference: P/21/0029

Sent to jim.blake@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Jim,

Land 120M Northeast Of 55 Bothwell Road Bothwell Road Hamilton South Lanarkshire. Erection of two dwellinghouses with associated studio flats above attached garage, raised decking at rear and formation of access.

Scottish Forestry would like to offer a consultation response on planning application : P/21/0029.

Scottish Forestry

Scottish Forestry is an Executive Agency of Scottish Government, seeking to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands on behalf of Scottish Ministers for the benefit of the Scottish people. In fulfilling these duties, Scottish Forestry has an interest in all developments that have the potential to impact on local forests and woodlands and/or the forestry sector. Scottish Forestry (SF), acts as governments Regulator and Competent Authority with regard to the sustainable management of forests and woodland in Scotland. It is also Key Agency under Town & Country Planning legislation, and will be consulted on development impacting trees, woods and forests to ensure that any proposed changes to the woodland are appropriate, address the requirements of the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Removal Policy and are carried out in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard.

Consultation Comments

The main issue of concern to SF in relation to Development Planning is that of deforestation and the potential effects it could have on the ecology and landscape of local and wider environs. Scottish Planning Policy paragraph 218, issued by the 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 benefits. A proposal for compensatory planting may form part of the determination. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 also places a responsibility on Local Authorities to identify how it will protect, enhance and improve the resilience of its woodlands and should take cognisance of this when making planning decisions that could reduce or detrimentally effect their woodland extent.

With respect to the submitted application we would like to request that the following points are taken into consideration by the Planning Department when making their decision;

- The planning area is located in an area of woodland designated as a TPO, it should also be noted that the woodland is on the National Forest Inventory. The TPO places the responsibility for all decisions relating to the management and retention of the woodland on the Local Authority.
- As the proposal will result in the permanent deforestation of 16% of the woodland, the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Removal Policy should be taken into consideration by the planning department when

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

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making its decision on the proposal. In addition a proposal for compensatory planting should be part of any development approval that results in the permanent deforestation of woodlands.

- The Supporting statement notes that the agreement to manage the remaining woodland will ensure a net benefit for the development. Permanently removing woodland results in a permanent net biodiversity loss not a gain.
- The Applicant has noted 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. Consideration by any future manager/s of the woodland should be given to its silvicultural management and associated liabilities such an undertaking would present. Grant monies are available from Scottish Forestry to support the active management of Woodlands In and Around Towns by community groups but due to the size of woodland in question the available grants are unlikely to cover all the works, and additional funding or expertise may need to be sought.

If you would like to discuss any points raised further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your Sincerely



Sasha Laing MSc MIC For

Planning & Regulations Manager
Scottish Forestry