



# Lasswade District Civic Society

Director of Strategic Services  
Midlothian Council  
Fairfield House  
8 Lothian Road  
Dalkeith EH22 3ZN

c/o Hillwood  
Braeside Road  
Loanhead  
EH20 9SF

For the attention of Mr. Kingsley Drinkwater

16<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Sirs,

**Planning Application Number 14/00939/DPP**

**Erection of five dwellinghouses; formation of access road and associated parking area John Lessels Landscaping Springfield Lasswade EH18 1EB**

Lasswade District Civic Society has been established for over 40 years, and its adult membership now stands at around 400. Our constitution objectives include '... care for the beauty and character of the local area and the preservation of the general public amenity'. For these reasons, we are writing on behalf of the Society, to express our concern and to lodge an objection to the above planning application.

There are a number of important grounds for our objection. The site lies in an area of Protected Green Belt Land designated in the Midlothian Local Plan 2008 as Protected Countryside, Protected River Valley and an Area of Great Landscape Value, and which abounds the Mavisbank Conservation Area. As such any proposal for change of use of land in such a sensitive location is at risk of contravening the Resource Protection and Detailed Development policies set out in the Midlothian Local Plan, and could set a dangerous precedent.

In particular we believe that the proposal is contrary to the following policies set out in the Midlothian Local Plan:

**RP1, RP2**

**RP6** – development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the special scenic qualities and integrity of the AGLVs. The policy which is not restricted only to development within AGLVs, also applies to development affecting the setting of any AGLVs.

**RP9** – development within the river valley protection areas of the Rivers North and South Esk will not be permitted unless the development demonstrates that it will not have an adverse impact on the landscape and conservation value of the valleys.

**RP22** – within or adjacent to a Conservation Area, development will not be permitted which would have any adverse effect on its character and appearance

**RP25**

We trust you will take these grounds for objection into account in determining this planning application.

Yours faithfully

**Lasswade District Civic Society Committee,**

Michael Stoneham, Rosemary Mackay, Adam Lansdown, Jacquie Dunlop, Sheena Dryden,  
John Blackwell, Sheila Murray