

Letters of objection

Who can write letters objecting to developments?

Anyone and any organisation. You do not need to live locally or even in the Borders. Americans with reiver ancestors can object. Heritage or landscape associations can write. However it is important to clearly state who you are in this connection. i.e. local resident or whatever.

When should you write?

As soon as possible after hearing about a proposal, and again when a formal application is lodged. Developers have a nasty habit of withdrawing an application then slapping in a new one with minor changes. The objections to the previous proposal are then binned and you have to quickly re-send your objection with the new reference number and the new date.

What should you put in the letter?

1. It is important to put it in your own words but you can then send the same letter to everyone you contact.
2. Keep it short, preferably two pages or less.
3. Head it with the reference number of the application if it has been assigned (Windy Edge does not yet have one as the proposal is still in the “scoping” stage, BUT it has received a “proposal of application notice” which is **11/01104/PAN**, and this can be used in the meantime).
4. Give the name, type and location of the proposed development, e.g. “I am writing to object to the development of “**Windy Edge**”, a proposed wind farm on **Braidlie and Sundhope Farms, south of Hawick between the A7 and the B6399, very close to Hermitage Castle**”.
5. The reasons for objecting : negative impact on landscape, amenity, leisure, tourism/ economy, important monuments are all grounds. Be emphatic about the importance of the above to the area if you cite them. You should include anything that particularly impacts on you – too close, noise, you will be unable to go about your daily business without seeing it constantly, the disturbance during construction including closing of roads will affect your business and family, etc. The Council and the Scottish Government both acknowledge your “right to the peaceful enjoyment of your possessions” in their wind farm guidance. It is one of your Human Rights. Don’t let them forget it. Mention but don’t give too much of your precious letter to wildlife and environmental impacts or other areas which are regarded as requiring a technical assessment unless you can claim expertise in these areas, when it can be effective to comment on them.

6. The tone : do not hold back. Let them feel your shock and outrage, your fear of the immediate and longterm effects of this industrialisation of an unspoilt rural area.

Responses

Responses from politicians and officials will be bland. They are afraid that they will be accused of losing their impartiality and hence will be unable to make an independent judgment of the merits of the proposal. Don't worry. They have heard what you had to say. You will now be on their list of interested parties and they should write to you to let you know if there are any relevant public Council meetings you can attend.

Who to write to

The Scottish Borders Council Planning Officer responsible for this proposal and the future application is Andrew Evans, (Planning Officer – Development Management)

Contact email: AEvans@scotborders.gov.uk

Letter Contact: Name and title as above

Environment and Infrastructure

Planning and Regulatory Services

Scottish Borders Council

Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA

Also, please send an email to Malcolm McGregor at:

malcolm.rmgregor@btinternet.com

with your contact details and expressions of support and then he can then let you know when the application from Infinis actually comes in as there is a relatively short period to send in objections

THANK YOU