
From: West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
Subject: FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#145]

Section 1: Michael Dunham

**Your personal
and contact
details**

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? * a member of the public

Select a topic Suggest sites for protection
to comment
on

Protection Torlundy

Site 1

3.1 Address /

**Description of
Land**

3.2 Beradeli and Inverlochy Castle

**Landowner's
name (if
known)**

3.4 Why should the land be protected?

There have been applications to develop large agricultural areas in Torlundy at the last 2 local plan times, both of which were rejected, the last one by the Government Reporter who concluded that development other than organic would not be in the interests of the community and would also impinge to a great extent of the views and amenities visible to all, including tourists enjoying the mountains and views from them.

Having had 2 rejections in the past I see no point in wasting further public money on a third attempt by the landowners concerned trying to build large numbers of houses in a small scenic community. Organic growth is acceptable as has happened over the last 10 or 15 years.

There is also the objection raised by Transport Scotland at the last Inquiry that access to the already narrow A82 trunk road is poor and any additional adopted accesses would not be met in a favourable light by them.

In the light that public transport is limited having to build social/low cost housing within the development would not be appropriate as it would be difficult to live here without private transport. Network Rail have already stated they would not consider an additional rail halt, and the service is too infrequent for local use anyway.

There are sufficient areas of land already allocated for development within Fort William, Corpach, Blar Mor etc that have been allocated over the last 10 years or so and never developed. It would make more sense to use up those allocations that are nearer town, have better public transport connections for all residents and nearer employment than create a situation where there is piecemeal development that will takes a decade or more to complete.

Those already allocated areas are also already adjacent to infrastructure connections and schools etc. neither of which Torlundy has.

There is also allocated a significant area of land in Leanachan Forest for development for which I have no objection as it will benefit the area for both local people and visitors alike.

4.1 How do you want the West Highland and Islands area to change over the next 10–20 years?

By careful and considered development in areas that reduce costs of development and connection to local services, allow better access to public transport and facilities.

Also fee that there should be more joined up planning for residential use and use of already allocated land areas before adding more.

The Fort William area is unlikely to be attractive to large residential developers, therefore local developers should be required to develop existing allocated land before more piecemeal plots here and there as this just makes the area look untidy and shows no joined up plan for development.

4.2 What do you think are the best, existing assets and characteristics of the area?	The Nevis Range and Aonach Mor are vital to the area in attracting tourists who make up some 38% of the local economy, the largest single industry in the area.
Think of your favourite landscapes, settlements,	The road to the Isle should not be allowed to become littered with new houses here there and everywhere by ribbon development along the roadside. The same should apply to the A82 to Spean Bridge.
	More should be made of public buildings and facilities in Fort William itself

journeys,
events and
meeting
places.

**4.4 How can
these assets
and
characteristics
best be
safeguarded,
improved or
used to
provide
economic or
community
growth?**

By careful development of brownfield sites, empty spaces in town and use of already allocated land areas to avoid a sprawling building plot!