

**From:**  
**Subject:**

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan  
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#394]

**Section** Liz Grieve

**1: Your  
personal  
and  
contact  
details  
1.1  
Name \***

**1.2 Are  
you? \***

**Select a  
topic to  
comment  
on**

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

I see your call for everyone to give their views on the new West Highland & Islands Local Development Plan.

As far as I and no doubt many of my neighbours are concerned this is a complete waste of time. We are the victims of the last Local Plan and the system has proved to be non-democratic.

As a resident of Old Town, North Ballachulish, I viewed in the current Local Plan when it was at consultation stage and noted that there were two areas designated as suitable for housing. A third area at Old Town was outlined in white as a Settlement Development Area and this we were led to believe was for a limited amount of housing and so there were no objections. When an application was made in February 2010 to build ten houses using up the whole site and suggesting even more in a nearby field for the future, almost every resident in this area was against the proposal. A site meeting was held and the planning committee voted with the residents against the proposal. After an appeal by the applicant permission was granted. This appeared to be a half hour visit by one man who said it looked marshy (it's not) and that it seemed to be poor soil (it has been tested and is good quality). As you know there is no appeal against this decision. The Crofters Commission are unhappy about the loss of good agricultural ground but as the original application was made under the old Crofting Act it seems their hands are tied when it comes to preventing the development and thus retaining good agricultural ground.

The overriding mantra seems to be housing at any cost and the cost here is the destruction of good agricultural ground and the imposition of a dense and suburban styled housing estate totally out of character with the existing settlement.

We have all been let down by an unclear local plan with confusing ideas under the guise of consultation by a planning department determined to do what it chooses.

Any input to the new WHILDP will be pointless as the views of residents count for nothing.