

From:
Subject:

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#187]

Section 1: Alan Robinson

**Your personal
and contact
details**

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? * a member of the public

Select a topic Tell us your vision for the area
to comment
on

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

There should be no ribbon style development where small villages are linked by an abundance of individual plots usually obtained by those who can afford second and third homes. There are examples of large individual properties being built in isolated areas that are served by narrow roads with passing places. If permission is granted for development in these areas the Council should use whatever powers for the improvement of the highway serving said development, for example, more passing places. These roads will, in time, be too congested and not up to a standard with increase in traffic. I would also like to see the brownfield sites in and around Spean Bridge to be developed more quickly, as some of them are an eyesore. Investment in more infrastructure should be a priority before any more large scale building programmes in Fort William. In the summer the section of road between the 'Tesco' roundabout and the Belford Hospital gets clogged up with traffic in the summer. Flat roof buildings from the 60's development in the town centre, opposite the open space next to Tesco, is dismal to look at, and certainly does not fit in well with the early architecture of the High Street.

4.2 What do you think are the best, existing assets and characteristics of the area? Think of your favourite landscapes, settlements, journeys, events and meeting places.

The West Highland area is stunning and it's main attraction is the scenery which in turn attracts visitors. Unfortunately, it is not treated with respect and pollution is rife in many areas, Glen Etive being one example. To protect the scenery, which is the most precious asset in the Highlands, the Council should introduce a Ranger service and promote areas for those tourists wanting to experience wild camping but be guided by a Ranger on the proper way to respect the countryside. Year by year access to remote areas is getting easier, look how windfarms with their access roads have helped, and therefore better control and monitoring should be given priority to protect them. Other countries, like New Zealand, have a better approach to safeguarding the environment from being littered.

4.4 How can these assets and characteristics best be safeguarded, improved or used to provide economic or community growth? Refer to 4.2 above. I would also consider a refundable deposit is collected by Rangers who are in control of the popular areas and the same can be returned to the campers when they can prove that all their litter has been collected and disposed of properly. The better these areas are controlled the more likely the Highlands will not become unattractive to visitors.