

From:
Subject:

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#259]

Section 1: Catherine Black

**Your personal
and contact
details**
1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? * a member of the public

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

**Protection
Site 1** The whole area of East Sleat from Armadale to Teangue
**3.1 Address /
Description of
Land**

**3.4 Why
should the
land be
protected?** There should be a presumption against any concentrated development in East Sleat, Skye, other than what has been agreed with the development at Kilbeg. This stretch of road boasts some of the most scenic views on the island and attracts many tourists precisely because the area is not over-developed.
I have a more particular worry that the proposed developments would erode the position of Gaelic in the area.

**4.1 How do
you want the
West Highland
and Islands
area to
change over
the next 10–
20 years?** The proposal to develop East Sleat, whilst bringing short-term profit to developers, will do untold damage to the area in the long term. Thousands of tourists are "returning customers" to the area, attracted by stunning views across the Minch to Knoydart, the lack of light pollution, and the Gaelic-speaking environment the college helps sustain. Why is development even being suggested?

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.

It is essential that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig continues to be able to provide a Gaelic-speaking environment, which is a constant struggle given the dominance of English. The college has been successful in that it is in a semi-rural setting

surrounded by a partly Gaelic-speaking population. The proposals will have a potentially catastrophic effect on Gaelic's long-term ability to survive and Highland Council must think very carefully before it contemplates development in such a linguistically sensitive area.

You may notice from my contact details that I am currently an ex-resident of Sleat. However, I do still have a family home in the area and I continue to support Gaelic by putting my daughter through Gaelic-medium education and maintaining close links with the college.

4.4 How can these assets and characteristics best be safeguarded, improved or used to provide economic or community growth?	The Highlands depends on the income that tourism generates, Skye in particular. Many visitors to Sleat come armed with wallets precisely because of the language, culture and stunning scenery the area offers. Can the Highlands really afford to jeopardise this?
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