

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

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan  
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#188]

**Section 1:** Hugh Cheape

**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?**

I would hope that the WH&I grow and thrive over the next 10–20 years but in ways that are sustainable and avoid the destruction of existing assets – cultural, social, environmental and economic. Initiatives for 'sub-urban' development need to be critiqued in a fragile area in which a development – the 'Kilbeg' development – is already well under way. The social, economic and cultural messages explicit in this development and so strongly articulated that a further sub-urban development in Sleat would seem to be spurious without robust arguments and popular support.

**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.**

A community sustaining a Hebridean way of life and language, a landscape poised between mountains and sea, an environment as exemplar for change and survival in the Atlantic zone. Concepts of change have been evidenced and tested in this post-Clearance and de-populated region but they should now be tested and scrutinised in a wider philosophical and political arena than the political imperatives of local government.

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

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## **community growth?**

Assets and characteristics can best be stewarded by adhering to the concept, democratically supported, of careful adjustment of the status quo rather than setting in train (without a popular mandate) a new development area – 'East Sleat', which may be as unnecessary as its name is artificial and without social or cultural meaning. The 'Kilbeg' development, already well advanced, is underpinned, not only by housing needs in the district but by association with the national and international success story of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. With the Toravaig distillery development at the other end of the 'parish', it would seem *prima facie* undesirable to create further development sites and foci before seeing these major developments forward to near-completion. These are the points of economic and community growth, well established and well tested. The WHILDP needs a further 5-year period of 'bedding in' what has already been instigated and further discussion before the environment which draws the admiration of the outside world is further threatened.

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