
From: West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
Subject: FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#307]

Section 1: Steve Heap

Your
personal
and
contact
details

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are a member of the public
you? *

Select a Suggest sites for protection
topic to
comment
on

Protection All land between Armadale and Teangue, Sleat, Skye

Site 1

3.1

Address /

Description

of Land

3.4 Why should the land be protected?

Having spoken to many friends and neighbours who live within the above bounds (many who have never been involved in local plans), they are all opposed to the proposed suburban style development of section(s) of this area. For the following reasons.

1. The development at Kilbeg was widely accepted as it would affect very few people directly, it was directly adjacent to Sabhal Mor Ostaig which would benefit from and on its own, with a small but manageable impact to Sleat. If it had been said that this may set a precedent for future development in the area there would have been many objections.
2. This is still a largely rural area and the majority of residents wish it to stay this way.
3. There is a small need for housing particularly 'affordable', but this could be met with small rural type developments as found throughout rural Highlands. Not major ones as found in the larger towns and villages, such as Broadford , Portree, Kyle of Lochalsh etc.. Indeed the development at Kilbeg may well, satisfy this need for some considerable time.

4. The potential impact on tourism. Sleat is very dependent on tourists, providing much for the local economy. The possible developments as suggested, could well impact on the numbers of people who come and stay or visit the area.
5. Possible impact on the night sky if developments were to go ahead with street type lighting. Many people choose to both live or visit areas like Sleat because of the 'dark sky'.
6. Further impact on wildlife which this is likely to have.
7. In general local people are okay with individual developments which have a small impact in the nearby vicinity, but would be opposed to larger multi impact developments. This has been shown in recent times with serious opposition to proposals for large schemes at Mansefield, Teague and adjacent to the single track road leading to Upper Teague and Saasaig. Both one may surmise, were lead by the potential for monetary gain not for the benefit of the community.
8. The potential loss of some of the best crofting/ farming land in the area. Several local residents make all or part of their income from fields in this area. As rising food costs and population increases begin to impact, it is likely that more food will be grown locally, as is happening in other parts of the UK. This land once lost is lost forever.