
From: West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
Subject: FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#189]

Section 1: Iain MacLean

**Your
personal
and contact
details**

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? a member of the public

*

1.4 Name of Iain MacLean Boatbuilder

**Organisation
(if
applicable)**

Select a Suggest sites for protection
**topic to
comment on**

Protection East Sleat

Site 1

3.1 Address

/

**Description
of Land**

3.2 Clan Donald/FEI

**Landowner's
name (if
known)**

3.4 Why should the land be protected?

I believe that the whole of east Sleat should be protected from concentrated development.

In my lifetime I have seen Sleat more than double in population. The only advantage to which has been the building of the road which joins Sleat to Broadford, the local community have suffered in almost every other way, so much so that there is no longer a local community left, instead it is filled with holiday and retirement homes. This undoubtedly

brings in money – but it's the wrong kind of money and only serves to increase house prices beyond what young local people can afford. Developers then come in and build housing schemes under the guise that they are housing the people displaced by the increase in property price, when in fact all they are really doing is using it as a tool to earn more money – none of which goes into the local community. We should be dealing with the root cause of the housing problem, rather than treating the side effects. Allowing concentrated development will only treat the side effects and allow the problem to continue to grow.< br />

Street lighting will inevitably follow any concentrated development (whether the residents want it or not) – stripping us of our highly cherished clear night skies. The local people will not only lose one of the few developed areas with a clear view of the night sky, but also the income from the tourism it generates – the right kind of money, money which goes directly into the local community through local trade. I, for one, will vigorously oppose any plans to increase light pollution in Sleat.

Sleat has a strong Gaelic speaking community – this is no accident. A lot of work has gone into preserving our native language and making Sleat a hub for the Gaelic language. It is a (globally) well-documented fact that minorities of native language speakers are always overpowered by mainstream language in concentrated developments. Gaelic speakers will be 'thinned out' to the point where it could easily be lost forever. The loss of the Gaelic language will be a direct result of concentrated development.

People live in this area because it has no concentrated development – any planner looking to change this would be fundamentally wrong in doing so.