

1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011

Dear Sir,

**Objection to Development of R121M**

I refer to my earlier objections, all of which I apply to your amended proposals and add additional comments.

I object to your amended proposals:

- **This landscape is unique to Kendal and delineates the history and geography and rural nature of the area, particularly the valley. It separates the town dwellings from the rural dwellings and farmland in and around our hamlet.** I refer you to your previous planning decisions and to Kendal Town Councils recent study on development of this area.
- **R121M is an existing precious unique public space which characterises Kendal and is vital to the well being of locals and visitors.** It encourages tourism locally, and is viewed from other prominent tourist areas in Kendal such as Scout Scar, The Kendal Golf Course, The Kendal Castle Mound and Benson Knott as well as the West Coast Railway Line. We need more tourism in Kendal, not less. You now appear in the modified plans to label part of the area as a **new public space**. The whole of this area is **already an existing important public space**, visible to all users of the highways locally and across the valley and users of Scout Scar, the Golf Course, Kendal Castle, Benson Knott and the Castle Green Hotel and railway. This has been our argument and by labelling it as a public space you appear to agree with us. Development will lessen and ruin our existing public space. It will be smaller, less visible and less public if surrounded by any housing whatsoever so this is a ridiculous proposal. Leave the area alone as the public valuable local landscape space it already is and should remain.
- **The viewing link is unique in Kendal.** The links between R121M, the open green land across the main road, views to Benson Knott and the fells in the distance is unique in Kendal, linking the history of the castle to the history and geography of the fells and civilisations in the past. It is invaluable and irreplaceable and creates a sense of the rural outskirts of historical Kendal. If any of these sections either side of Castle Green Lane are developed, Kendal loses her identity. We are currently a shop window for Kendal for all those entering from the east or visiting at the Castle Green Hotel or on the railway. Are you really wanting to turn our town into a glorified anonymous housing estate?
- **To build any more modern monstrosities on 121M as were allowed on Oak Tree, Rowan etc, will destroy the character of the area and damage civic pride and identity.** Whether low level or high rise housing, if slate or grey stone are used, eradicating the green spaces and building here will destroy and urbanise our auld grey town and in particular Castle Green Hamlet. Do not repeat the mistakes of the past but learn from them. Other towns nationally and internationally, are going out of their way to preserve their identity and landscape, housing characteristics and materials. There is a civic pride and a potential tourism impact in doing so. SLDC appear not to care about Kendal's civic identity. They should learn from Rinteln which has gone out of its way to retain its historical features and character.
- **The land is subject to flooding issues** which will be exacerbated along with winter ice issues. More houses mean more problems.
- **R121M is an important habitat for diverse flora and fauna and wildlife including our Great Crested Newts colonies** which overwinter across the site and further afield. I refer you to your previous planning decisions and to Kendal Town Council's recent study on development of this area.
- **Previous planning rejected this site as not suitable for any housing, let alone affordable housing and it still isn't. The recent local Kendal Town Council study reaffirms this.** R121M flies in the face of planning aims locally and it will require too much in the way of financial assistance to address the local issues to allow many, if any, low value houses. It is a source of continuing concern that the deliberations of previous planners may be overturned because of the pressure to build houses at a time when purchasing houses is becoming ever more difficult for the people you say you want to assist, those wanting affordable housing. This site will never meet that objective. It will not be cheap enough to develop or to buy on.
- **The squaring off of the site creates the [potential for even more housing and an unacceptable urban style sprawl which will bring even more traffic pollution, accidents and noise to a beautiful rural location.** It is clearly designed to enable more houses to be built and all that comes with urbanisation of a rural hamlet. I object to losing our beautiful peaceful historical hamlet to any of these urban blights.

I am aghast that it would appear you are still including R121M in your plans. This landscape is precious and can not be replaced. Developing it in any form whatsoever will ruin the character of the area as viewed and perceived locally and from a distance. Despite previous planning decisions and the Kendal Town Council Study you now appear to have amended the proposed area to squash even more housing onto this beautiful piece of Kendal rural landscape, squaring it off in a hideous urban, almost American, fashion and naming a "public space" which is already ours to enjoy but would be hidden if your proposals go ahead. I therefore object just as strongly to the amended proposals and to any plans to build on any of the land on or around 121M.

Fiona Hanlon