

## Application Summary

**Address:** Land To East Of Montrose House Balmaha  
**Proposal:** 20 unit affordable housing development (comprising 12no. houses and 8no. flats), formation of 2 housing plots, access road and associated infrastructure  
**Case Officer:** Erin Goldie

## Customer Details

**Name:** Mr James Fraser  
**Address:** Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Carrochan Balloch

## Comments Details

**Commenter Type:** Member of Public  
**Stance:** Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

I am writing to confirm the strong support of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs for this proposal which involves building 22 much needed affordable houses on the plantation site near the entrance to the village.

Rural Stirling Housing Association has been working with the local community for some time now to address the lack of affordable housing in Balmaha where over 50% of the housing stock is used for holiday accommodation and the rest is well beyond the means of ordinary working people and young families.

We were interested to note that over 100 households have lodged expressions of interest in the proposed houses with around 50% of these being from the immediate Buchahan and Drymen Community Council areas. This clearly demonstrates there is a high demand for the type of affordable housing planned at the Plantation site.

This is a sensitively designed scheme, well set back from the main road, with the retention of a large number of trees which should help ensure Balmaha will retain it's intrinsic character and charm.

Balmaha, like many other small rural communities in the National Park, is facing major challenges in retaining young people, and people of working age, due to the lack of affordable housing with tourism operators and well heeled commuters and retirees continuing to snap up any housing that comes on the market.

We do not accept the claims made in the national press by objectors to the proposal that " Scotland's most famous long distant route faces being devastated if a controversial housing development goes ahead."

This is not the case as the WHW on Conic Hill is some distance away from the site

earmarked in the National Park Local Development Plan for affordable housing after extensive local community consultation over a number of years. The developers proposed use of dark materials on the roofs and the retention of 60% of the trees on site all help minimise the visual impact.