



Planning Department  
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park  
Carrochan Road  
Balloch  
G83 8EG

16<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Residential Development, Carrochan-2015/0075/PPP**

As follow up to the recent Balloch public meeting organised by Balloch & Haldane Community Council on tourism related matters in Balloch I am writing to submit a formal objection to the above planning application on behalf of The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

Our main grounds for objecting are the loss of much needed parking and the associated detrimental impact on tourism and the economic well-being of Balloch village. We also object on the grounds of the loss of green space and amenity land.

Generally there is a shortage of car parking spaces in Balloch village which is making it difficult for visitors to stop and spend money in local businesses. They are also unable to enjoy the recreational and tourism assets of Balloch e.g. Balloch Castle Country Park, due to car parking shortages.

The shortages in the Carrochan area of course have been compounded by the traffic generated by the National Park headquarters due to under-provision when the new National Park HQ was built and the growth in number of visitors attending meetings at the National Park HQ. It is also very unfortunate that West Dunbartonshire Council recently took steps to block off the informal parking area on the application site which means the small nearby public car park is often full with visitors to the NP HQ.

There is an urgent need for the National Park Authority and the West Dunbartonshire Council to come forward with a car parking strategy for Balloch village as it is very clear that there is a problem and as a result the tourism potential of the village is not being fully realised as they search for elusive parking spaces. Similarly, local residents are having difficulty accessing local businesses by car as a result of the car parking problem.

In summary, we consider the site that is the subject of this planning application for housing is too valuable in car parking and amenity terms to assist with the proper functioning of the village as a place to visit, enjoy and stay. We would urge the NPA to refuse this applications for the grounds stated above.

We would also formally request that the NPA changes the zoning of this site in the new draft Local Plan from mixed use and housing to car parking and amenity land.

We also trust the strong views expressed by Balloch and Haldane Community Council and local residents attending the recent public meeting will have a bearing on the NPA deliberations and as a consequence the planning application is refused.

Yours faithfully,

James Fraser  
Chairman