



Mr Gordon Watson  
Director of Planning  
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park  
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16/1/2012

**2011/0256/PPP | Erection of housing development incorporating affordable/local needs - Land To Rear Of Gartocharn Church Adjacent To France Farm Gartocharn**

**Response to application from The Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs**

Dear Gordon

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs to object to this application on the following grounds.

1. Local Plan: This area of land is outside the areas designation for development in the newly adopted local plan. The plan was the subject of lengthy and careful development with input from a large number of agencies and groups including this charity. Had this land been included for development during this process we would have strongly objected, and we wholeheartedly agreed with your excluding it from possible development in the plan. To allow the development would render the local plan as a pointless exercise.
2. Viability of Millennium Hall/Community asset: The proposed development would be dominant in the view from the village's Millennium Hall – ruining this aspect. The hall generates significant income for the community and for its upkeep from hire for wedding receptions and many other events throughout the year - very many of which use this venue precisely because of the uninterrupted and un-paralleled views from the main hall across open farmland to Loch Lomond to the North. This valuable community asset would be ruined by such a development.
3. Environment: In the precious immediate environment around the village a valuable green open space with hedgerows, mature trees and open grassland would be lost to hard landscaping and housing.
4. Precedent: Breaking both the letter and spirit of the Local Plan by allowing housing development to push beyond the natural envelope of the village will set a terminal precedent. The NPA will be unable to resist further similar proposals from other areas where there are particularly special views of Loch Lomond and other parts of the Park as from this site. If this

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is granted, the precedent set will encourage other developers to 'try their luck' in ignoring the sensible guidance of the local plan.

We urge the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority to firmly reject this speculative application.

Yours Sincerely

Simon Lewis  
Director