

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LDP](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Development Plan 2021-2031
Date: 07 June 2020 10:59:58

INVERURIE LOCO. WORKS FOOTBALL CLUB, HARLAW PARK, INVERURIE

I wish to raise an objection to the proposed Local Development Plan 2021-2031 in respect of the local football club and the future use and development of Harlaw Park. This objection is sent to you by:

David R. Fasken

[REDACTED]

Tel (home) [REDACTED]
Tel (mobile) [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Objection and Proposed Alteration

My objection concerns the re-zoning of Harlaw Park from being part of the Town Centre to restricted use as a protected area “to protect the football pitches and ground”. I believe that this decision will impact to a significantly negative degree on the football club.

I request that you reverse this decision in order to protect the future of Inverurie Loco Works F.C. and, indeed, to allow it to develop and expand.

Supporting Information

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My understanding is that the proposed development plan will not allow for any further development of, or improvement to, Harlaw Park because it will be “protected”. This is contradictory in itself. Why protect a football ground, if it is then not allowed to be developed or improved in the future? This sounds like a very bizarre form of “protection”.

If the Scottish Football authorities demand future upgrading of grounds, or if Inverurie Locos progress to higher levels in the Scottish League, the Club will be precluded from doing so by such imposed restrictions.

The value of Harlaw Park, which is owned by the Club, will be reduced overnight to zero, and that will prevent any borrowing against the value of Harlaw Park in order to fund improvements (I understand that the current Board is already considering major upgrades to the facilities).

The present Board of Inverurie Loco. Works is extremely ambitious and hard working. It has created a vibrant community club which provides healthy sport and exercise for hundreds of

young men (and women) across several age groups. Apart from the general health benefits (including mental health), the Club provides direction and support for some youngsters who would otherwise be “hanging around street corners” or be glued to their computers or phones. It provides a social focus for the players and supporters. The Club also raises funds for local charities. The proposed plan would put all this in jeopardy.

I believe that the role of football clubs, large and small, all over the country is underestimated and under-valued in terms of what they offer to their local communities. I would further contend that Inverurie Locos can, if supported by the Council and the community in return, do for the town what Ross County has done for Dingwall. Dingwall has a population of around 5,500 compared to around 14,000 in Inverurie, which just demonstrates what can be achieved by a “small town”. And our Club has such an iconic name on which to raise Inverurie’s overall profile and to build an exciting future.

I request, therefore, that Harlaw Park retains its current planning status as part of the Town Centre and I hope that Aberdeenshire Council will actively support the Club in the future to develop and prosper. I really fear that the new, proposed plan will hamper the Club’s ambition and vision and cause it to stagnate.

Thank you very much for taking my views into account when considering all the representations.

I shall be grateful if you will acknowledge safe receipt of this representation by return. Thank you.

DAVID R. FASKEN