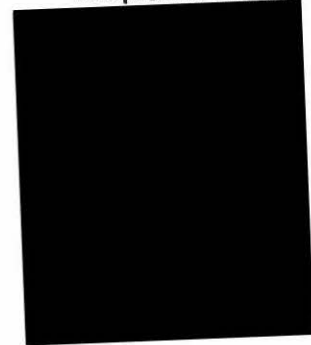


1012 REF: LDP2021 NN

PP0159

Jacqueline Forbes



22/06/2020

To whom it may concern, I write opposing the development of Proposed Local Development Plan OP1 Blackdog.

Firstly, on this proposed land there is established woodland, which firstly is the habitat of many protected species i.e. bats, newts and birds of prey etc. The woodland is also enjoyed and maintained by the locals and the children of Blackdog. These woodlands should be classed as a local amenity for all to enjoy and live alongside the local wildlife, which we have the great privilege to encounter daily.

The Government also wants us as a nation to cut our carbon footprint. This they have listed in the UK legislation 2008 Climate Change Act to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by year 2050. Excising forests and woodlands are an important part of the global carbon cycle, by removing this green house gas from the air because trees absorb carbon dioxide, thus it improves the quality of human life by soaking up pollution and dust from the air.

Hansen et al, 2010 did an article stating that our air quality is severely threatened by deforestation, but can be improved by

- Increasing the amount of forested/woodlands through reforestation
- Increase density of existing woodlands/forests
- Reduce carbon emissions caused by deforestation and degradation.

Aberdeenshire Council has a huge part to play in this by not allowing our existing woodlands/forests to be felled for the land to be used for



development. As stated, our green spaces are very limited and need to be protected, not just to preserve our wildlife but for our overall general health. Deforestation represents a highly significant threat to our climate, air quality and wildlife. Over these last few months especially during Covid 19 our local woodlands have been a haven to all who live in Blackdog. They have offered peace and tranquillity in these pressing times. Our local children have enjoyed decorating the trees and walkways with handmade ornaments etc with their families for us all to enjoy. The children have also incorporated the local woodland, plants and wildlife into their home studies.

Allowing this Development Plan 2021 to proceed will not only impact greatly on our green space we have in Blackdog but our overall well-being. Multiple studies have shown that green space is very important to reduce stress and to boost mental and physical health. Aberdeen City Councils "Open Spaces Strategy" also state that the local council needs to promote our local green space due to the growing evidence that it contributes to improving our general health and well-being, [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Jacqueline Forbes