

David Johnstone



REF: Local Development Plan 2021 – Proposal for Development at Site OP3 Belhelvie.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a resident of the Belhelvie village. My family and I have lived here for 6 years now and we enjoy the area and the community spirit.

We would like to object to this proposed development referenced above.

Belhelvie is a quiet and peaceful village and does not have many facilities for children or young adults. At the moment many parents have to drop off and pick up their children from Balmedie or Bridge of Don for various activities and an increase in population of the village will lead to more traffic and pollution.

The village does not have any shopping facilities so we have to drive for shopping, leisure, work etc. With more people living here this will increase amount of cars on these country roads which as well as increasing the chances of accidents will also add to climate issues. Some people I know in the village cycle and are not looking forward to the extra cars on these roads. If these houses go ahead there could potentially be 100 to 200 extra cars on these un-modern roads. It's bad enough for cycling as it is without increasing the load.

The children at present are bussed to Balmedie School and Bridge of Don Academy. These schools, Balmedie especially, are already oversubscribed and any extra children these houses bring will put a strain on the schools and classes thus damaging our children's education. The bus service for the school is also well subscribed. At the drop off and pick up point for the bus there are always cars parked along the bottom of Cairntack Road. This will just get worse with extra cars and will increase the chances of an accident during these times.

There is a small play park at the bottom of Cairntack road which is well used when it is not water-logged after rain. More children will render this park unusable to that amount of kids and may send them further afield to find things to do, small village with some wood land out-with, this may have the effect of children walking on the roads to find other places to play. At present cars regularly speed into the village (which has been raised with the Police) and this could be really dangerous if children are venturing onto roads.

The doctor's surgery at the moment is already very busy with getting an appointment being difficult and having to wait weeks before being seen. (My last appointment took 3 weeks.) More families will worsen an already difficult situation.

The bus service is already not fit for purpose. It is every two hours and first one in the morning cannot get a lot of people into work for their start time.

Wildlife in the area is currently prolific and would be adversely affected by the proposed development because of the increase of traffic on the narrow country roads. There are dead foxes, deer, badgers and birds regularly found on the local roads

In winter time Cairntack Road becomes like a skating rink at the bottom of the hill. As it's on a bend on a narrow road this is hazardous as you find yourself sliding onto the wrong side. Increased traffic will only make this more dangerous. Also the heavy frosts that are frequent to our area affects the road and pavements leading to the main road. Overhead tree branches shade the road from any sunshine and prevent the ground from defrosting all day.

The Loop road your documents mentioned, I assume this means opening up Cairntack road. This would greatly increase the amount of traffic travelling on this road and would put the children and the elderly at risk, especially in the winter months as the pavement and roads are always affected by frost.

I thought that Aberdeenshire Council was committed to improving the Green Environmental standards of these areas, this proposal would have an extreme adverse effect on the village from the destruction of green areas to the creation of extra roads and drainage systems this project would surely require.

We very much hope you will reconsider this decision for the sake of the village and the residents.

Yours Sincerely,

David Johnstone.