

## CAMMO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Director of Planning  
The City of Edinburgh Council  
Market Street  
Edinburgh 13 June 2013

## EDINBURGH PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cammo Residents Association (CRA) wishes to formally object to the Edinburgh Local Development Plan. We represent the interests of over 150 households in Cammo who are unanimously against the proposals.

Please find appended the objections on the Council's forms which comprise of:

- An objection to the Principle of Development and Housing Requirement;
- An objection on Transport and Access, (with expert Report attached);
- An Objection on Green Belt and Landscape, (with expert Report attached);
- An objection on Education and Services;
- An objection on Biodiversity; and
- An objection on Agriculture.

We are working in conjunction with Stathalmond Residents, Friends of Cammo, Friends of the River Almond, Cramond and Barnton Community Council and others in West Edinburgh including East Craigs Community Council and Barnton Residents Association in opposing this poorly thought out Plan.

As a Strategic Development Area it is recognised that housing is required to assist economic growth. However the Plan does not fully consider all opportunities in the area and its definition of West Edinburgh is a constraining factor. Furthermore we would point out that:

- There is already a large amount of committed development planned in the area and no need for the oversupply being proposed;
- The landscape setting character and identity of the City will be destroyed and threaten its special qualities as a place to live visit and invest;
- No regard has been given to roads infrastructure;
- Education and community services are at capacity and further development is not feasible or sustainable.

We would also take this opportunity to state how disappointed we are with the performance of our Planning Department in the Council. Not only is the Proposed Plan flawed but the standard of communication and responses to community queries from lead officers in the Council has been particularly disappointing. As a consequence we have lost confidence with the current officials dealing with the LDP.

Despite previous consultation, public opinion has been ignored and the community believes that it is being 'fobbed off'. This does no credit to the Council or the profession and we would urge you to engage fully with us on substantive and material planning considerations that will affect our community.

In addition we are not clear how the Council can progress with the allocation of Cammo despite objection from so many of the Agencies (SNH; SEPA; Historic Scotland) and influential groups in the Community including the Cockburn Association who has stated that:

*‘The Association strongly opposes the sacrifice of green belt for urban sprawl. The Scottish Planning Policy (2010) identifies a purpose of the green belt “to protect and enhance the quality, character, landscape setting and identity of towns and cities”. The Edinburgh Green Belt Study (2008) Stage 2 report assesses certain sites for development suitability. We are unable to find any evidence that the potential capacity of Stage 2 sites for housing has been assessed. Hence, we are very concerned that this study seems to have been ignored and that different criteria are being used to identify sites for development (paragraph 3.8 of the MIR) – apparently in order to find sites within the two SDAs. The EGB study demonstrated that there is very limited capacity for additional development in the green belt without causing unacceptable damage to its integrity and purposes.*

*The SDP only considered an even greater use of the green belt in its alternative scenario, but there are many different scenarios and to build on the green belt is neither inevitable nor acceptable in light of the SDP’s admission of increased carbon emissions during the lifetime of the Plan... We therefore strongly oppose the sacrifice of this agricultural land in the green belt for low density urban sprawl... The alternative area West of Maybury Road is unsuitable for development as it provides a very clear division between the suburban edge of the city and the rural agriculture to the west. Further, it provides an excellent setting for the Cammo Estate with clear uninterrupted views to Cammo Tower notable as the alleged inspiration for the tower at the House of Shaws in Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel Kidnapped. This provides an excellent approach to the historic city of Edinburgh and would be greatly diminished by extending the suburb of Cammo.”*

CRA has no option but to continue to campaign vigorously against the plan which will be detrimental to West Edinburgh and the future prosperity and attractiveness of the City.

We are in correspondence with Local Councillors who we hope will take a common sense approach to public opinion, but would also like to meet with you to discuss our substantive

We look forward to your response and some diary dates for our meeting.

Yours faithfully

Chair, for Cammo Residents Association

Cc: MP / MSP / Local Councillors / CEC Planning Committee / Chief Planner  
Scottish Government / Scottish Natural Heritage / Scottish Environmental Protection Agency / Historic Scotland / Campaign for the Protection of Rural Scotland/  
Cockburn Association/ Friends of Cammo / River Almond / Cramond and Barnton  
Community Council/ East Craigs Community Council/ Cramond and Hallhill Estates  
/ Strathalmond Partnership