

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forestry FLS Communities](#)
Subject: Balmacara Campsite
Date: 21 February 2024 14:53:06

Dear Sir

I wish it to be known that I object to the development of a commercial campsite in these local woodlands. This area is one of the few places locally where elderly people, as well as others, are able to walk their dogs due to reasonably flat terrain. The area is well used by local people and schools who bring the children there to teach them about nature.

To think that it might be overrun by motorhomes absolutely disgusts me - we get enough of them who use the site for overnight parking without making it a free for all!

The local community have been raising money to, as we thought, preserve the space for locals and I would not have given one penny towards it if I thought it was going to be given over to tourists. Since the notice appeared on the gate I have not spoken to one person walking there who does not feel the same way. There are already enough facilities for tourists in the area without taking away a place well used by locals who pay their council tax in Balmacara.

This is an absolute travesty and I and others will be making our thoughts known to the people responsible for this in no uncertain terms!

Yours - [REDACTED]
Balmacara
IV40 8EE

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forestry FLS Communities](#)
Subject: Balmacara Camp Site
Date: 23 February 2024 09:56:21

Dear Sirs

I am writing to you again with an objection to this project as I have now found out more about the proposed plans. I do not feel that the community will benefit from the proposals to turn the woodland into an extremely large camp site will benefit the community at all but rather going a long way towards destroying it! The area around Balmacara Square consists of a mere two hundred and fifty people - a good proportion of which occupy the accessible houses provide by the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association. This means that they are elderly or incapacitated in some way. The woodland at the campsite is, at the moment, very accessible for them as well as others with mobility problems who come from villages nearby. Other places in the vicinity, such as Lochalsh Woodlands, are more challenging so more suited to those who are fitter and a great deal more mobile. Even people who use mobility scooters can manage to negotiate a good part of the Old Campsite whereas, they would not be able to cope with either Lochalsh Woodlands or the other local forestry tracks. I am in my late seventies and suffer from osteoporosis as well as arthritis so, on bad days, can only manage the Old Campsite to let my support dog have a bit of a run. Not only that but, a lot of folk are within waking distance of the Old Campsite so don't have to drive anywhere to walk their dogs which must be better for the planet as a whole! [REDACTED] where there are twelve houses and six people from there, including myself, walk to the campsite with their dogs at least once a day. We also like it there because you almost always meet someone you know to have a chat with which is important if you live on your own. There is a whole community of other dog walkers you can meet up with while walking there some of whom have helped me with things in my home on several occasions. We are all dreading losing this wee community.

Apart from this, I do not feel that this development will do an awful lot to help the wider community. The local cafe is always full during the summer months even though they have seating outside, and the local Spar shop as well as the Co- Op in Kyle run out of the essentials so locals cannot even purchase milk or bread after 11am!

There is also the matter of the access roads to the campsite, one of which runs through the village in Balmacara Square, which are quite narrow including the Duirnish Road which is single track. The road off the A87 to the campsite entrance is also single track and can be quite boggy at the sides. The turning out on to the A87 is very dangerous as you can't see very far, especially when turning right. Cars and lorries come down there at quite a speed as they are coming downhill. I have been almost been hit several times in my car when turning out of the junction - a larger vehicle such as a motorhome or a car towing a caravan would be much slower getting out on to the main road and thus in much more danger of being involved in an accident. The A87 on that stretch is already a known accident black spot so I dread to think what will happen when a lot more vehicles use it and the junction, especially when driven by folk who are not familiar with the road.

How many trees will have to be felled to accommodate this new campsite? How many eco systems will be destroyed in the process? Does anyone ever listen to David Attenborough when he advises how this sort of destruction will eventually lead to the end of our wonderful planet and the end of the human race? This is only a small area of natural beauty but, when you multiply this by the hundreds like this that are being destroyed all over the planet, it becomes equal to the destruction of the Amazon Forrest! I feel that Forestry and Land Scotland would do far better to listen to Sir Attenborough than let a very wealthy man gain ownership of a beautiful natural area only to destroy it! I would have thought that an organisation such as yours would be more sympathetic to the preservation of our rapidly diminishing places which show allow people to enjoy the beauty of nature.

The last point I would like to make is that once the community gain ownership of the woodland , it will be leased to a company, Reraig Camping and Caravanning, owned by a very wealthy man who spends his winters on his boat moored in the Caribbean so how will this benefit our community? Who will pay for the rubbish and grey waste disposal and who will repair the roads, which are already in a terrible state? All of this will also mean more large vehicles on roads which will not cope as well as through a village where children play in safety.

Yours Sincerely - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Balmacara
Kyle
IV40 8EE
Tel:- [REDACTED]

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