

## **Appendix 1**

### West Dunbartonshire Council Response to Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan Main Issues Report

#### Rural Economy

The preferred option of allowing greater flexibility for economic development within the countryside is supported by this Council, as long as the requirement for development not to have a detrimental impact on the special qualities of the Park is maintained.

The current requirement for economic development to be associated with existing activity seems unnecessarily restrictive when there is a continuing need for diversification of the rural economy. Further, there is no need to restrict development to within groups of buildings when the safeguard of protecting the special qualities of the Park is in place.

The Main Issues Report does not make clear what form or format the Rural Development Frameworks for Luss and Drymen/Balmaha will take, but does suggest that they will provide more clarity for landowners and communities on what is acceptable in planning terms. Whilst recognising resource restrictions, it would be a concern if that part of the National Park within West Dunbartonshire was put at a disadvantage – both in terms of protecting the environment and attracting economic investment – by not having a Rural Development Framework in place.

#### Visitor Experience

This Council agrees that Balloch should be identified as a key location for strategic tourism development. Small scale tourism development should be supported in the countryside, with guidance defining which countryside areas are most appropriate for this type of development. The Council would be supportive of camping and motor home provision in appropriate locations within the West Dunbartonshire part of the Park.

#### Infrastructure and Services

West Dunbartonshire Greenspace has identified a requirement for a cemetery extension in Gartocharn and a preferred site at Kilmaronock Church. It is proposed to the National Park Authority that this site should be included in the new Local Development Plan.

## Housing

The Council supports the preferred option and status quo of requiring a 25% affordable housing contribution from sites in Balloch and 50% from sites in Gartocharn.

On the matter of affordable housing from sites adjacent to settlement boundaries, Alternative Option 2 is preferred. Housing development should be plan-led, and on the basis of planning for a generous supply of 75 units per annum, there should be no need for additional sites to come forward via the planning application process.

## Balloch

The preferred strategy does not raise any concerns.

## Gartocharn

The preferred strategy does not raise any concerns.