

Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan



25th August 2017

Dear Sirs

Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan

Having been notified of your plan in the last few weeks – I have taken much time and trouble to read it.

It is without doubt, impressive in content, no doubt many hours and much effort have been put into this lengthy document. Indeed, I highly commend the process of bringing the community together in the formulation of this document, this can be challenging and emotive at times and as we all know working as a committee is far from easy and everyone will have their own wishes or views for Lazonby's future; bringing out many challenges.

For my part – I have lived and brought our children up here and have been based here for 25 years – before that based at Armathwaite and when I was a young girl staying with my Grandfather in Lazonby Hall. The last four years due to personal reasons I have been away. Now, I am delighted to find myself back at "home" in our beautiful Eden Valley.

Indeed, it was only in 2009 that there was a plan to put 5 super large wind turbines on to our hills – which would have had a devastating effect on the landscape of Lazonby and our Eden valley. The Williams-Ellis family was personally involved in setting up a group to fight this plan and helped fund the "starter" campaign against Eon. These turbines would have had a significant effect on our view today had permission been granted – we did this because as custodians of a beautiful part of England we deeply care for the landscape.

On the Lazonby Estate there has been a long term plan to plant woodlands and hedgerows we have been doing this in a serious way for over 25 years – It goes without saying that this has a very important ecological benefit to our Country and in particular to the vision of the landscape in and around Lazonby. We are planning more woodland planting – in particular at the back of Bells Bakery where there is bad "light bleed" – many houses look down into the back of Bells and the lights are on 24/7 – we wish to help screen the light pollution and we have discussed this with the Bell family and would possibly work in conjunction with them to improve the general habitat and landscape to that side of the village.

It was with much surprise that the Trustees of Lazonby Estate were informed that your LNP incorporated the addition of proposed "New Footpaths" and "Historic Footpaths". The latter of which have never been footpaths but only access tracks over the Estate for the management and access of the Estate team. I believe that the Trustees have not been approached or consulted on this plan and therefore I would consider the element of new footpaths to be "undeliverable" – I would recommend that they are removed from the plan as being unachievable.



As with most things in life – working together is positive and it seems to me somewhat naïve of the Parish Council to not approach the Trustees of Lazonby Estate to consider plans that might work well and collectively for the village i.e. the funding of an all-weather tennis court or other such ideas could be considered – as we all are more aware than ever that a fitter life is a healthier life and has many benefits. On the Lazonby Estate the vision for planting Woodlands will outlive all of us and stand as a testament for many residents of Lazonby village for generations to come. But unfortunately, we cannot support footpaths that have been not sensibly and practically thought through and would have a serious impact on the management of the land that we are fortunate enough to own.

Wishing the Parish the very best for their efforts and I would like to say that generally I would be supportive of the plan and would be happy to meet with any members of the Parish Council to discuss the LNP further should they wish to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Serena Williams-Ellis

Sent by Email and hard copy