


**GRANT AND DIANA MACKENZIE**

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Aberdeen  
AB15 8JQ



13<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Development Management  
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 4  
Marischal College  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen

Dear Sirs,

**Proposed Hotel and Country Club Development Hazlehead Riding Centre  
Application 141026**

I refer to the above application which has been submitted to the Council for Planning Permission in principle and wish to register my objection to the grant of the application.

Having reviewed the plans it appears that there is a proposal for a 2 Site Development comprising a Hotel, function suites and restaurants on an area of ground west to the former Dobbies Garden Centre and a County Club and ancillary facilities on the site of the existing Hayfield Riding Centre.

Hazlehead is a wonderful facility which has been enjoyed by generations of Aberdonians. I know from my very regular visits to the Park that it is very well used by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders as well as those enjoying the facilities of the Golf Club. It is one of the few areas within the confines of the City where you can enjoy safe and unspoiled walks through largely undeveloped land. It also a haven for wild life and gives the opportunity to see a variety of birds and wild animals in their natural habitat and Deer are often to be seen on the site of the proposed Hotel. It is perhaps the only area of true countryside within the City boundaries

The eastern extent of Hazlehead Park has already been affected by the Dandara Housing Development at Countesswells Road which resulted in the loss of a number of pathways through former fields. It is understood, of course, that these fields did not comprise part of the Hazlehead Park, but the fact that the houses are to be built up to the edge of the Park inevitably detracts from the adjoining pathways within the Park.

The 2 Site Development that is proposed in connection with the above application are both situated within the heart of Hazlehead Park and would, in my opinion, detract considerably from the amenity of the Park. Judging by the number of car parking spaces that seem to have been allocated to the Developments there would also be a considerable increase in the volume of traffic through Hazlehead, on roads

which are already inadequate.

It is clear that the area upon which the Developments are proposed is Green Belt land and in my opinion it would be wholly inappropriate to allow such large scale development in this area. Even if it could be argued that there were some justification for the construction of a Hotel and Country Club, which I would dispute, there can be no justification for the "Serviced Chalets Holiday Homes, Second Homes or Time Share Properties" which seems to be simply a back door means to secure consent for a Residential Development. If this were to be approved I would have real concerns that this may prove to be the thin end of the wedge.

I firmly believe that in planning terms the application is indefensible, lying as it does within the Green Belt area. I think there are a variety of other reasons why the application should not be granted, not least:

- The loss of important and scarce green space and countryside in a location close to the City
- A large Hotel and Country Club is inappropriate in the area, as is the scale of the proposed development, and it should not be permitted in this locality.
- The roadways are not adequate to cope with the additional traffic that would be generated.
- The development would be totally out of keeping with the rural character of the area
- The negative impact on the habitat for the indigenous wild life in the park
- It would be hugely detrimental to the amenity of the many paths and tracks that pass through the area and to the enjoyment of the persons using these.

Hazlehead is in my opinion a priceless facility which has been enjoyed by generations of Aberdonians and it is vitally important that it be preserved for generations to come. If this application were to be approved it would greatly detract from the enjoyment of the many people who use it on a regular basis. I would urge the Committee, therefore, to reject this application.

Yours faithfully



**Grant MacKenzie**