



Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council
By email:
Peter Maudsley Peter-mariner@hotmail.co.uk

Please ask for:

David Robertson

Our Ref:

DR/FC

Your Ref:

E-Mail:

David.Robertson@scotborders.gov.uk

Date:

4 March 2025

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter of 26 February noting some significant concerns about the operation of the Planning Committee. I will discuss these with colleagues and seek to address the concerns you have outlined which relate to a number of specific issues rather than the operation of the planning process or committee per se. Clearly planning, as a quasi-judicial function, deals with a number of very complicated and often controversial issues, and from time to time the decisions reached by those trained to determine planning matters may not be the outcomes everyone agrees with. This, however, does not mean the decision is wrong nor that it has been reached without following due process.

It is also the case that the very fact that meetings of the Planning Committee are recorded and available for public view may engender the view from the viewer that issues raised by Elected Members in Committee Meetings may have been given more weight than they actually were in reaching a planning determination. Likewise, a lack of challenge in the meeting may simply mean that a comment has been disregarded in reaching a decision.

That said, I am very happy to look again at our processes and to ensure Members charged with taking planning decisions are equipped with the knowledge and skills they require to perform this function effectively. I will also seek comment from colleagues regarding the questions you have raised regarding both legal compliance and access to information. Thank you for the offer of reviewing the planning process, I don't think this will be necessary at this stage but I will come back to you once I have spoken to colleagues if they are of the view that this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Robertson'.

DAVID ROBERTSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE