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27 January 2008

Development Management Consultation
Planning Directorate
Scottish Government
2H Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir,

Development Management Consultation Paper: January 2008

Part 14 Question 42 12. Bad Neighbour Development

We agree the label "bad neighbour" is far from the truth in describing places of worship. We do not think Places of Worship should be in such a group since we are GOOD NEIGHBOURS, extending care in the community and promoting community cohesion. It would be more appropriate to be identified in paragraph 12.5 as suggested deletions.

At times of community anxiety or disaster, the local place of worship frequently becomes a focus of relief efforts and the extension of comfort and support to others. It is a focal point of the community - evidence by the fact that throughout Britain, it is common to see places of worship located right in the heart of the community where they are best placed to extend help and support to those in need.

A place of worship is a building dedicated to prayer and meditation. Why therefore are places of worship in a list that includes concert halls, nightclubs and skateboard parks, whilst other examples of 'Bad Neighbours' like fast food outlets, waste recycling centres, are excluded. Is it the intention to limit the development of new places of worship in Scotland?

While we recognise that there MAY BE more objections from the wider community at the time of application for a new Place of Worship. Surely, our Planning Officers are skilled enough to identify the specific local issues involved without having documents directing them to take certain action purely based on the development definition

We cannot support paragraph 12.4 additions in view of the nature of deletions e.g. Music Halls, Dance Halls, a nightclub would probably describe itself as a Dance Hall to avoid a negative classification.

Consequently, we request removal of Places of Worship from the 'Bad Neighbour' list.

We look forward to your response

Yours Sincerely



Ken Russell
Circuit Planning Representative
Jehovah's Witnesses