

Dear Mr Bullingham,

I am responding to this consultation paper, to Section 12 and Question 41 therein, and particularly to the use of the pejorative term "bad neighbour development" which is not in any way descriptive of the matter being referred to and is certain to cause offence to some if not all of the activities/organisations listed. I suggest that a more accurate and appropriate title would be " Developments with noise, traffic or parking etc implications". I may say that all of these implications are adequately covered by the existing planning regulations.

As it happens I am the Parliamentary Liaison Officer of The Free Church of Scotland whose official views will be presented by the Scottish Churches Committee but I have a strong personal objection to places of worship being referred to, without reason, as "bad neighbours" whether in a planning or other context. Places of worship are considered as desirable amenities and rightly so by every local authority I have ever been in contact with and indeed many such authorities include them in their outline planning specification to housing developers. This is because ,in addition to worship services, churches provide a long list of community services such as child care and mother/child facilities, asylum seeker support, senior citizen centres, marriage counselling, support for addiction sufferers and their families, youth club facilities etc etc.

You can see therefore why use of the adjective "bad" to such organisations is highly offensive.

I will forward the respondent information form to you by letter post.

Yours faithfully,

Donald Matheson