

**From:** Weatherston, Tom (Councillor) <tweatherston@scotborders.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 08 November 2020 19:44

**To:** Walling, Fiona <FWalling@scotborders.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Review of Application

20/ 00028/PPP LAND NE OF EAST NEUK  
MOREBATTLE

Mr and Mrs Walker

I would like to add a bit more onto my original statement in support of the appeal of Mr and Mrs Walker to build a house in Morebattle to support their local business, employ another employee and safeguard the growth of this expanding business.

I concede the development site is over the fence from the settlement boundary but the area concerned has always been considered part of the village. In less than a minute you could be in the local pub the village shop or the village hall, in two minutes your children could be at school.

I appreciate being on the wrong side of the fence deems the application to come under the term Housing in the Countryside but in no way could it be described as open Countryside or a development in isolation.

Local Authorities use the term something (would not normally be permitted) but that quote has been tested and there is clear evidence to say that in special circumstance's occasionally you could permit something against policy.

Mr and Mrs Walker's agent covers the main planning policies but I think the main areas of consideration are.

The proposed development is a job generating development in the Countryside. The new house will create one new job in agricultural activity and retain the existing jobs of Walker groundworks.

The appeal sit would sit at the mouth of an existing cul-de-sac and opposite an existing dwelling on the other side of the road. The new house would give a logical end to the villages development pattern.

I am disappointed we will not accept the forestry and groundworks activity which provide ample funding for the proposed development and operation of Temple hall farm.

The Walkers are local people who have lived in and around Morebattle all their lives and they want to invest and keep their business here. They do not want to have to consider moving away from the area to expand their business.

In Landscape and visual terms the new house would appear as part of the Morebattle village.

Mr Walker is very keen to keep his plant machinery safe and secure as rural theft is a major problem as we all know and there is no doubt having someone living on site would greatly reduce that risk. Businesses are facing very big challenges going forward and need all the help they can get I am more than convinced the benefits of this proposal far out way any negatives.

I think it's significant that there has never been any objections from anyone locally about this proposal and there is widespread respect that this is a growing business employing local people and generating greatly to village life and its sustainability.

Planning guidance allow us to show some flexibility and look at each application on its merits I think the merits of this application are sound and I would ask the panel to support this appeal.

Regards

Tom Weatherston

Elected member for

Kelso and District