

LDISSUE: LDMI22**Tourism**Name: **Mr Ian Angus-Felton**

02902/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

The Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies are the two main attractions and activities should push tourists to these sites first and foremost.

Response:

Comment noted. The sites are both identified in the Spatial Strategy as tourism networks/themes and nodes. The Proposed Plan seeks to support the role of these visitor attractions.

Comments 1

Name: **Ruth Arnott**

00964/FLDP_MIR/3001/004

Comment:

There should be increased promotion of cycle paths and public footpaths. Perhaps Falkirk could be promoted as a Kiltwalk location.

Response:

Comments noted.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr James Ashe**

02761/FLDP_MIR/3001/011

Comment:

Main tourist attractions are on the outskirts. More needs to be done to attract people to the Town Centre as well.

Response:

Falkirk Town Centre is identified as one of the key tourism themes/nodes in the Proposed Plan Spatial Strategy which will provide the focus for development opportunities. Proposed GN07 in the Proposed Plan also identified an opportunity to improve connectivity between the town centre and the Helix through an open space and strategic access corridor.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Campbell Boyd**

02483/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

The amount of Roman remains in the area needs to be better publicised.

Response:

The Antonine Wall World Heritage Site continues to play a part of the tourism mix within the Council area. The vision and policies in the Proposed Plan seek to protect and enhance the World Heritage Site, and encourage development which would complement the existing pattern of visitor attractions. An ongoing programme of improvements to visitor access is being currently led by Historic Environment Scotland, including new walking routes, a mobile app, new interpretation and public engagement events.

Comments 1

Name: **Brightons Community Council**

00123/FLDP_MIR/3002/011

Comment:

Haining Castle in the Whitecross area is an ancient monument being ignored and neglected. The Council should take a more proactive stance to ensure heritage bodies take interest and ownership of this building, to ensure it is not allowed to deteriorate any further.

Response:

Haining Castle is a Scheduled Monument, and sits within a wider strategic site identified for mixed use in the existing LDP. This proposal has been scaled back and rationalised under the Proposed Plan, and the castle now sits within a site proposed for business land, which is privately owned. Originally, the castle was intended to be safeguarded under the previous proposed development. Restoration of the castle will now likely only be a requirement in the context of a new application/development.

Comments 1

Name: **Callendar Pharmacy**

02887/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

The Town Centre should have a tourist information centre.

Response:

Tourist information centres are established and managed by Visit Scotland, whose policy has been to have their iCentre at the Falkirk Wheel. This is not a matter which the LDP can influence.

Name: **Ms Kate Christie**

02922/FLDP_MIR/3001/009

Comment:

Tourism is vital to the area's economy. Suggests focusing on the canal, and promoting the Bo'ness steam railway more widely. Helix suffers from parking and traffic problems.

Response:

The Spatial Strategy in the Proposed Plan sets tourism themes, networks and nodes and seeks to enhance the strong visitor economy. The Canal network is also identified as a key tourism and recreational asset, and a key part of the Falkirk Green Network.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Gordon Cook**

00890/FLDP_MIR/3001/003

Comment:

There is little to do at the Helix, and the parking is poor. The land opposite B&Q could be utilised as car parking.

Response:

Comment noted. The Helix is managed by Falkirk Community Trust. The land opposite B&Q forms the Galkirk Gateway, which is identified as a strategic mixed use site in the Proposed Plan.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Susan Crook**

02911/FLDP_MIR/3001/004

Comment:

Many of the sites shown on the green travel map would be of interest to many more people if they had their profile raised.

Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Sinead Currie**

02779/FLDP_MIR/3001/005

Comment:

Houses will not encourage tourism. Consider using spaces for building businesses people will visit (bowling, adventure parks) rather than housing.

Response:

The Proposed Plan supports tourism development by focusing on a framework of tourism themes, networks and nodes which can be found in the Spatial Strategy.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Douglas Dewar**

02893/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

Tourism is looking good in the area.

Response:

Support noted.

Comments 1

Name: **Susan Dyer**

00469/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

Providing cafes and restaurants at key sites would encourage more people to visit. Tourist attractions in the Clyde Valley appear to have a much better range of dining facilities for tourists.

Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: **Falkirk Community Trust**

01077/FLDP_MIR/3001/004

Comment:

MIR2 Bo'ness Sites

Appropriate development at the walled garden would be welcomed. It is identified as development opportunity within the Kinneil Estate masterplan.

Response:

Support welcomed.

Comments 1

Name: **Falkirk Towns Ltd**

00605/FLDP_MIR/3001/006

Comment:

Disappointing that Falkirk and Bo'ness Town Centres are not featured as central points linking the area's tourism attractions. Scope for additional visitor facilities should be included in LDP2.

Response:

Falkirk and Bo'ness Town Centres are identified as tourism nodes in the Proposed Plan, and the tourism role of these centres is clearly highlighted and supported.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Jennifer Forsyth**

02903/FLDP_MIR/3001/009

Comment:

Pineapple at Dunmore seems an under-utilised tourism opportunity.

Response:

Comment noted.

Comment:

Agree with the approach taken on town centres.

Response:

Support noted.

Comments 2

Name: **Grangemouth (including Skinflats) Community Council**

02723/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

Existing tourism assets should not be threatened by development. Proposals for unconventional oil and gas could create a negative impact on the burgeoning tourism opportunities in and around our communities.

Response:

Tourism development is supported in LDP2. Other development such as unconventional oil and gas extraction would be assessed under the minerals policies. It is noted that the Scottish Government has issued Directions preventing Planning Authorities from taking decisions on planning applications for unconventional oil and gas or underground coal gasification applications.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Sandra Hallows**

00888/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

It would be good to have a wider range of uses at Gilston Park in Polmont, particularly as the Canal is nearby. The countryside around Nicolton Road is very attractive and I believe this area could be used to enhance tourism (may be close Nicolton Road to through traffic - apart from the farmers and use as a cycle/walking track). It would also be an amenity to the local community.

Response:

Comments are noted. LDP2 retains the site's current business use allocation. This supports mixed industrial, commercial, tourism and leisure uses at the site. LDP2 provides detailed guidance on the site's development, including greenspace enhancements and path linkages to improve the amenity and accessibility of the site.

Comments 1

Name: **Historic Environment Scotland**

02656/FLDP_MIR/3001/040

Comment:

We support measures to introduce a new trail along the Antonine Wall WHS and to improve the quality of the area's canal network. We also welcome the proposal to restore the walled garden in Kinneil Estate through creating a new tourism development. Further engagement with HES is encouraged as these proposals progress.

Response:

Comment noted. The Council is keen to engage with Historic Environment Scotland and other key stakeholders as and when proposals develop.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Roddy Htet-Khin**

00803/FLDP_MIR/3001/010

Comment:

I think the view from the top of Wallace Brae could be promoted as a Historical Tourist Site as (according to the plaque on the top) it was where William Wallace commanded his armies. The view of Stirlingshire and the Ochil Hills and beyond is spectacular. The road leading up to the viewpoint should remain undeveloped to retain its countryside setting.

Response:

Comment noted. It is assumed the representation is referring to the site of Wallace's Stone, on Standrigg Road. LDP2 does not propose new sites, including along Standrigg Road, for housing development within the vicinity of Wallace's Stone. In addition, the plan has a strong presumption against development which would have unacceptable visual and landscape impacts on the area.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Douglas Jardine**

02894/FLDP_MIR/3001/009

Comment:

Promote Blackness as a tourism opportunity which has excellent walking facilities.

Response:

The Proposed Plan does not make a specific reference to the tourism opportunity in Blackness, however this does not prevent proposals coming forward to enhance facilities. The opportunity for access and landscape improvements along the John Muir Way is referenced in the plan (GN01).

Comments 1

Name: **Lorna King**

00846/FLDP_MIR/3001/011

Comment:

Improve nodular facilities to support Falkirk as a walking, recreation centre. We have great core paths, the Braes area is beautiful, the canal is great, but there are few facilities which supports family use of these. Look at parking opportunities and access points. Strategic toilets (composting if only option!) Encourage enterprise in Falkirk - cafes (floating on the canals) at strategic points etc. Tourist accommodation and tourist facilities linked to the canal network in the Wallacestone, Muiravonside and the Braes area may be appropriate.

Response:

Comments noted. LDP2 supports appropriate tourism development as well as active travel enhancements.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Elaine Mackie**

02895/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

Before any further tourism promotion, transport and parking should be sorted out.

Response:

The infrastructure, design and implications of new tourism proposals are considered through the planning application process.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr & Mrs D McCormack**

02766/FLDP_MIR/3001/001

Comment:

MIR2 Bo'ness Sites

Concerned about any potential change of use at Kinneil walled garden on grounds of security for their property which backs on to the walled garden; drainage issues, with surface water coming into their garden from the walled garden; traffic and parking, with traffic spoiling the estate and no facilities for increased parking; and lack of toilet facilities. Allotment use unsuitable because there is no earth and there is allotment provision nearby at Rouken Glen. Consultation with residents in the estate is poor. Housing would be a preferred use.

Response:

The site at Kinneil Walled Garden is included as an opportunity for community growing and a potential tourism opportunity in the Proposed Plan. It is considered that there is scope for these uses without significant detriment to the amenity of adjacent residential properties. Nonetheless, the issues listed are noted, and will be considered in determining the scope of detailed proposals.

Comments 1

Name: **I D McSpurtle**

02901/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

Callendar Park could be regenerated and the attractions at Callendar House upgraded.

Response:

Callendar Park and Wood is identified as green network opportunity in the Proposed Plan. Masterplans have also been prepared by the Falkirk Community Trust and Forestry Commission in which opportunities for improvement have been identified.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Louise Meikleham**

02920/FLDP_MIR/3001/009

Comment:

Having an all in one ticket for all the Council's tourist attractions would enhance the amount of visitors to the area.

Response:

Comment noted. This is not a matter for LDP2 to address.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Stuart Moss**

02726/FLDP_MIR/3001/008

Comment:

Promote the John Muir Way long distance walk more. Increase local paths through green belt areas.

Response:

Comment noted. LDP2 identifies John Muir Way as a specific green network priority.

Comments 1

Name: **Paths For All Partnership**

00359/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

Building and promoting an active travel infrastructure that connected Town Centres, the canal network, CSGN, Antonine Wall, the Kelpies and other key visitor destinations would add value to a growing tourist market that looks to walk and cycle around Scotland, either for day visitors or those that stay longer. This infrastructure can be created at relatively little expense, yet builds significant capacity and interest into existing tourist attractions. This in turn leads to greater economic activity.

Response:

Comments noted. LDP2, pg. 16, Table 3.1 lists key green network priorities for specific components of the green network. This includes the John Muir Way and Helix among many other locations.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Kathryn Rosevear**

02921/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

Redevelopment of/ investment in Falkirk town centre would help to boost tourism in the area.

Response:

Comment noted. The Proposed Plan has a significant focus on Falkirk Town Centre, identifying it as a major area of change with significant development opportunities. The plan adopts the Scottish Government's town centre first principle, preferring urban centres, such as Falkirk Town Centre, as the first choice for major footfall uses.

Comments 1

Name: **Scottish Canals**

00516/FLDP_MIR/3001/004

Comment:

There are further opportunities for growing leisure and tourism around the canal corridor and particularly at the Helix / Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel / Tamfourhill area and at Rosebank.

Response:

Agreed. The canal corridor is defined as a key tourism theme in the Spatial Strategy, and several canal related tourism opportunities are identified in the plan including the Falkirk Wheel, Falkirk Gateway, Rosebank and the A801 Union Canal.

Comments 1

Name: **Scottish Natural Heritage**

00646/FLDP_MIR/3002/008

Comment:

Scottish Natural Heritage generally agree with the tourism nodes, themes and opportunities highlighted in the MIR but suggest that some other nodes, e.G. Callendar House and Park, have a relationship with the canal network; that long distance routes should be considered as part of the network; and that the coast should be considered as a tourism opportunity in its own right.

Response:

Callendar Park and House is not considered to have a direct relationship with the canal network. Long distance routes and the coast are encompassed by the the CSGN, which is included as a tourism theme.

Comments 1

Name: **SEPA (East Region)**

00532/FLDP_MIR/3001/011

Comment:

Issues related to air quality and carbon emissions should be considered as part of the proposed increase in tourism.

Response:

Policies PE26 and IR13 allow such issues to be considered and mitigated in connection with any relevant planning applications.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Marie Short**

02917/FLDP_MIR/3001/005

Comment:

Annual sporting events may boost the growth of tourism in the area. People will travel far to participate in a well organised event in a special place. How about a Helix half marathon or cycling sportif? We've got the basic off-road facilities, turn it into a sought-after tourist attraction.

Response:

Comment noted. This is not a matter for the Local Development Plan to address.

Comments 1

Name: **Michael & Janice Smith**

02915/FLDP_MIR/3001/005

Comment:

Improving Falkirk Town Centre would boost tourism in the area. Keep as much character as possible. Encourage small businesses as tourists tend to like individual ,characterful shops,cafes etc.

Response:

Comments noted.

Comments 1

Name: **SportScotland**

00330/FLDP_MIR/3002/004

Comment:

General approach to tourism is welcomed, and note the wider role which sport and recreation can play in supporting business and employment.

Response:

Support welcomed.

Comments 1

Name: **Ms Fiona Stewart**

02897/FLDP_MIR/3001/007

Comment:

Opportunities include bike trails at Kinneil and walks in Carriden Woods linking into the John Muir Way.

Response:

Comments noted. Kinneil Estate and the John Muir Way have both been identified as green network opportunities in the Proposed Plan.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr John Travers**

02905/FLDP_MIR/3001/004

Comment:

Promote highly rated locally-owned business and eateries at and when promoting tourist sites.

Response:

Comment noted. However, the ownership of individual business cannot be influenced by the planning system.

Comments 1

Name: **VisitScotland Regional Partnerships Executive**

02867/FLDP_MIR/3001/001

Comment:

Pleased to see that the MIR acknowledges the importance of the visitor economy and that tourism is a potential growth area. Tourism focus for the Falkirk Investment Zone is welcomed, as are the preferred options of improving town centre connections and promoting additional tourism opportunities at the Wheel, Wester Carmuir and Kinneil walled garden. Recommends that reference to the National Tourism Development Framework be incorporated into LDP2.

Response:

Support welcomed and comments noted.

Comments 1

Total no. of comments 38