

Mains Estate Residents' Association

Help Save Our Local Garden and Designed Landscape!

Additional council consultation - deadline Monday 31st May 2021

Protection of our historic parkland landscape is at risk unless you **act now!**



To act we strongly recommend that you individually respond to the Council's consultation on our historic environment, using the key points outlined overleaf. **Every** individual in your household can respond – the greater the response, the more powerful the representation.

1. **Electronically**

Complete and submit the Representation Form which you can download from <http://www.mera-milngavie.co.uk/docs/RepresentationForm.docx>

Use the points overleaf to help you. Send form to **development.plan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk**

Please entitle the email: **Response to Historic Environment Consultation – Mains Estate.**

It would be helpful if you could also copy your response to Milngavie Community Council at mccconsultations@gmail.com and MERA at consultations@mera-milngavie.co.uk

2. **By post**

The representation forms can be printed, completed by hand and posted to:

Land Planning Policy Team, East Dunbartonshire Council, Southbank House, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 1XQ. Please remember to give your name and address.

Alternatively - whilst the council's preferred option is for you to use the representation forms, they will also accept email and written letter responses via the above addresses.

Further information is available from the Council at <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/proposed-local-development-plan-2-%E2%80%93-93-historic-environment-designations-review>

Background

The Council has issued a consultation reviewing historic designations including the historic environment protection of the Mains Estate (ref. HE22), and other Local Garden and Designed Landscapes (**LGDLs**). This consultation closes on 31st May 2021. This consultation was scheduled to be undertaken last year but was delayed due to COVID-19.

The Council has employed a Consultant to advise them. Unfortunately, the Consultant has proposed removing the historic designation of the 650-year-old Mains Estate. Due to COVID-19, the Consultant was unable to engage with the local community and stakeholders. MERA Committee believes that the external review has missed some key points known to the community and our Recommendation is that Residents respond to the Consultation requesting that the Council retain the existing **LGDL** designation for the Mains Estate. The charity Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage and the Milngavie Heritage Centre also support retention of the **LGDL** designation (HE22).

Why is this important? The **LGDL** designation helps ensure that any future developments within or around the Mains Estate are sympathetic and complementary to the historic environment. The **LGDL** designation also helps conserve the unique historical aspects of the local landscape that other designations (e.g., greenspace and greenbelt) cannot provide in themselves.

Key Messages to Include in your Response

We suggest the following two key messages should be at the top of your response, ideally in your own words:

- **I object to removal of the Mains Estate (HE22), Local Garden and Designed Landscape (LGDL) designation. I support retention of the LGDL designation.**
- **LGDL protection gives specific historic protection that other land designations cannot provide.**
- **I support the representations from the charity Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage and Milngavie Heritage Centre that the historic designation of the Mains Estate (HE22) be retained.**

Explain why the historic environment is important to you in your own words. You may like to use one or more of the following reasons that you agree with, in your order of preference.

- The historic environment helps make the Mains Estate a special place. The Estate includes the policies of the former Mains House (previously known as Balvie), together with the Mains Castle and Mains Plantation.
- The Estate has been developed over 650 years and it has a well-documented history, of significance.
- There is substantial evidence that the grounds have been laid out for artistic effect.
- There is evidence of formal planting on Chestnut Lane in the southern part of the estate.
- There is widespread evidence of informal parkland planting in the shelter belt woodland along the boundaries of the Estate, most clearly on the north and western boundaries. The Mains Plantation is also another example of significant informal planting, comprising an upland oak wood from the 18th century.
- There are stone perimeter walls on the northern and western boundaries of the Estate. These are generally in good condition. There are walls at the Mains Plantation. There is a "ha-ha" north of Douglas Academy.
- The Estate retains significant architectural features within the landscape. Category B buildings are of regional importance: Mains Castle (Category B listed) – The servants' quarters and the dovecot remain at Mains Castle on Chestnut Lane; Crossburn Home Farm (Category B listed) – the farm including the former Estate stables remains intact, now used as a house; Clober Farmhouse (Category C listed) – This former dower house, home of the Dowager Duchess, remains intact on Craigton Road; the western wall of the original walled garden between Douglas Muir Dr and Earls View remains in fairly good condition.
- A specimen Cedar of Lebanon planted beside Mains House is preserved and stands adjacent to Douglas Academy site; two specimen giant sequoias (Californian redwoods) are planted in Craigton Wood; and there is a historic yew tree walk on the western boundary of the Estate.
- The design feature of the carriageway to the Mains House remains intact within Craigton Wood and now provides pedestrian access to Douglas Academy.
- The Estate is of significant scenic value. The site provides an important role in the landscape setting for the west of Milngavie and north of North Baljaffray. The top of the Estate is also designed to provides views of the Kilpatrick Hills and the Camspie Fells, and also provides long views over Lanarkshire and east Glasgow.