

The District Council is proposing to remove the historic protection of Baldorran and the Mount Dam in Milton of Campsie.

The area that was Baldorran House and grounds has been developed and housing now occupies this site and I have no problem with its protection being removed. That will make planning applications for the houses there more straightforward.

However, the right of way behind the wall of the old Baldorran House up to the dam and over the bridge at the end of the dam should be maintained as it provides access to the dam from the east. I object to the removal of Mount Dam's protection and suggest that the Alloch Dam is added to the protection offered. This is a suggested boundary change to the existing protection.

The Mount Dam is the area to the west of the property behind the Glasgow direction bus stop at Mount of Glorat,, Campsie Road. The area in front of the dam has many mature, particularly Horse Chestnut, trees which overhang the road creating an 'Avenue' on the road to Lennoxton. This Avenue is so accepted that we often forget about the value and beauty of the trees but it is important that we protect this feature of our village. The dam lies behind the trees and an old right of way runs behind the dam where panoramic views of the Campsie Fells as well of the dam can be seen.

The area is an area of great natural beauty. We should also consider the importance of local industrial heritage. The water scheme in the area was designed to store and feed the water to industry in the area as well as preventing flooding in areas of the village. The water in the area was what caused development and the area to become populated and made the villages of the Parish of Campsie important and successful at the start of and during the industrial revolution. It brought many important people to come and live here. The waters running from the Campsie fells were directed to and stored in the Ashen Wells, in the foothills, then fed into the Alloch and Mount Dams before feeding the Lilyburn print works and later pulp works before being drained into the Glazert Water.

There was also a distillery in the centre of the village.

The gardens around the four wells and two dams were planted with trees and Asian plants such as Rhododendrons and Bull Rushes which were popular in the Victorian era. These plants can be seen today with the flowering rhododendrons producing quite a colourful show. These areas have been walked for recreation and health benefits by local people and over 3 centuries now. Photographs of the area have been published far afield because of the appreciation of the beauty of the area. The trees in around the village are very important in our heritage and in the east and west of the village the Lime trees gifted by the Prussian Court to Dr John Bell in recognition of his service to the Prussian Court can be found.

The Alloch Dam has not previously been protected but I think there is a strong case for including it. It is an iconic area walked by locals as well people who visit from far afield. The mature Beech Trees are a fantastic sight throughout the year and the views over the dam to the Campsie Fells are breath-taking. I propose this adjacent area is added to the protection currently afforded to the Mount Dam under the planned environment

scheme. This added protection will also help protect the village boundary that clearly delineates Milton of Campsie.

The importance of the local paths has never been so important as it has during the pandemic but we should be mindful of the importance of the trees to our environment also both cleaning the air we breathe and absorbing water to protect the area from flooding from natural the drainage of rainfall from the fells to the north.

The people of Milton of Campsie appreciate their environment, with many people moving here because of the beauty of the area and the lifestyle it can offer. However, the people of Milton of Campsie have a responsibility to ensure the area is protected in every way.

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