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**From:**  
**Sent:** 06 November 2020 13:38  
**To:** Local Development Plan  
**Subject:** Re-opened Representation Procedure - Boomhall

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Derry City and Strabane District Council  
Local Development Plan (LDP) 2032  
Draft Plan

### **Representation by**

The body of land lying on the west bank of the Foyle and bounded by the Foyle Bridge approach road, the A2 Culmore Road and the southern limit of Culmore Village contains an unspoiled landscape of outstanding quality and interest unsurpassed in any other Irish city of comparable size. Viewed from the river it forms an unbroken panorama composed of the gently rising and extensively planted grounds of four historic country mansions. This vista is one of the most significant and defining views in the city as it is viewed around sixteen million times each year by visitors and citizens as they cross the Foyle Bridge. Free of any significant urban intrusion, it is a historic designed landscape of unique landmark value to the city, unmatched in terms of its natural heritage, biodiversity, archaeology, distinctive architecture and social history. It has particular significance as a site of national and international historic interest where the Williamite Wars were ultimately determined as a consequence of the breaking of the Jacobite boom in 1689 at that place. The landscape therefore has iconic status with large sections of the community in Northern Ireland and deserves a sensitive conservation approach avoiding character change in recognition and respect for the particular relevance of the site to social identities. The site also adjoins the Bay Road nature reserve and contains protected species, including six of the seven species of bat extant in Northern Ireland. Red squirrels also reputedly use the treeline along the river to travel between habitats. In this regard, protection of wildlife corridors along the river and the veteran trees and woodland avenues along both sides of the River from the Foyle bridge to Culmore should be treated as an unequivocal priority in light of the Council policies to encourage biodiversity.

In these exceptional circumstances, and as a landowner with an interest in the landscape there, I encourage and support a planning policy which unequivocally aims to conserve and support the existing character of this landscape in all its various elements. Thus, in this specific instance, the terms of the proposed Area of High Landscape Interest (AHLI) designation should be expanded to ensure that no new development which is not patently essential to the retention and restoration of the present landscape character will be permitted.

I support the “Boom Hall Conservation Plan”, now adopted by the Council, including its recommendation (Chapter 3.3 Threats and Opportunities) that the Local Development Plan presents an opportunity to recognise the Council’s commitment to the future of the Boomhall Site and the listing of the historic properties there.

Yours sincerely'