Siting Prisons, Sighting Communities

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Planning Process

Community decline
- Motorola & NEC plants close (2001) - 4,600 job losses

MEETS

Prison system growth
- Est. need of 2,400 additional beds ‘as soon as possible’ and 900 in next decade (SPS 2002).

'It is a good day for West Lothian and in particular the people of Bathgate.' A prison means 'high-end jobs, well-paid and secure for the long term' (West Lothian Councillor Willie Dunn, BBC 2003)
The community visible through ‘material objections’

- Traffic: congestion, accidents, pollution
- Planning rules and strategy
- Residential amenity
- Out of keeping with surroundings
- Environmental concerns of site, prison
- Crime
- Noise and light pollution
- But NOT property values
The case for NIMBYism

We would like to object to the planning application for a prison to be built at Addiewell, West Calder for the following reasons:

1. We feel it would have an adverse affect on the value of our property. We know for a fact that the affect of a Young Offenders Institution down south had the effect of decreasing the value of properties within a 2-mile radius. Working in the Estate Agency industry my husband has first hand knowledge of this.

2. We feel that the Village of West Calder would be affected by through traffic and it is already a busy Village with the A71 running through it and lets be honest we do not need any additional traffic.

3. We feel the atmosphere in the Village would change, at present we have always thought it a great bonus that many of the shops do not have shutters on them however the kind of people passing through en route to visiting the prison stand a high chance of being from less savoury areas of the U.K. and therefore run the risk of causing bother in our Village.

4. We feel it would be an eyesore in the Community; lights constantly on would be unsightly.
## Technical adaptations to NIMBYism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments from Objectors</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objections to the establishment of a prison in general.</td>
<td>- The principle of allowing a prison on this site has been established by the outline planning permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stigma and adverse image of having a prison in the village.</td>
<td>- This is a matter of perception. It could equally be argued that the village profile and economy would be enhanced by the arrival of the prison.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local transport infrastructure would be unable to cope with the proposed development.</td>
<td>An assessment of traffic generation and its likely impact was undertaken at the outline planning application stage and it was concluded that the local road network would cope satisfactorily.</td>
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9.3 In that event it is recommended that planning permission should be granted subject to the conditions which are summarised below.

### 10.0 SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

- Protect wildlife and habitat and require appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented
- Require the relocation of the wild orchids and impose a monitoring regime
- Minimise disruption and nuisance caused by construction works
- Require submission of remediation strategy for dealing with contaminated land
- Provide details of the SUDS strategy
- Provide sample of external materials
- Require implementation of road improvements
- Require implementation of upgraded footpaths and lighting
- Require the implementation of off site footpaths
- Require submission of a “green travel plan”
- Control light pollution
Communicative Tactics
Affect 1: Anger & Sadness

Letter 15

I therefore DO NOT AGREE with any of the proposals you have, and are putting forward for this proposed project.

Letter 50

My worries include the impact to the wildlife, for example, the swans, the wildflowers, having spent many happy hours with my children in years gone by I am saddened that in future this might not be possible for the neighbours little boys for instance.
Affect 2: Fear, Stress, Anxiety

Letter 72
Please consider the stress and negative effects this proposal will result in for our two communities and reject the proposal.

Yours Faithfully

Letter 26
- Introducing drug trafficking, influencing a vulnerable group of people.
- Personal fear for residents living within the local community.
- An influx of strangers

Letter 59
One final question, please ask yourself, would I like a prison to be built on my doorstep? and feel a fraction of the worry we are feeling and stress we are being put through.
Affect 3: Humour, Irony & Sarcasm

My concern is for the prisoners. West Calder is a degenerate, wipe-your-feet-when-leaving sort of place and the particular site you have chosen for construction of your prison is one of the least scenic imaginable. These poor chaps will have no outlook whatever. A vista of bings, industrial dereliction and sub-standard public housing will depress them terribly. Also, their dependent relatives, when visiting, will have absolutely nowhere to have a quiet cup of coffee or glass of wine while they discuss the wellbeing of their incarcerated menfolk.

No, no, much better to site your prison in a more affluent area with existing scenic attractions and civilised amenities. I would strongly suggest Linlithgow. As near to the Council Offices as possible would be best. Then they can have a nice view of the Loch and its

[...The late Fr McMahon always said Addiewell would rise again but I don’t think he had a prison in mind. Letter 18]
Lived Knowledge vs. Technical Knowledge

“…suggested the impact of the proposed build, on the majority of levels, would be ‘negligible’. – obviously written by persons unfamiliar with this area! West Calder still has a ‘village’ feel and obviously

If this is so self-evident to me as a road-user, and as someone with eyes to see the ponds of water currently flooding the fields all over the area, and the effects of such a development are dismissed as ‘slight’ and ‘minor’, how much more worrying is it that in areas of which I know almost nothing such as air pollution and the effects of digging up contaminated ground, the assessment does

I have lived on Station Road for 33 years and my four children grew up here. It was quite safe for them to go out and play and ride their bikes in the lane. They are now married with children of their own, three of them live nearby and have six children between them, but 1 2 and 3 are Parks. area. This certainly will affect local residents. I particularly chose my house location to gain a sight of the night sky this will be curtailed.

Letter 61
Letter 20
Letter 39
Letter 9
Helpful suggestions of alternatives

Letter 69

3. We already have prisons at Saughton and Shotts, and I suggest you bring all personnel to the new prison in Fife.

Letter 62

May I suggest a better site for the new prison, other than Addiewell?

The Eastern end of the Lang Whang to the South East of Kirknewton. This site is adjacent to a main road, with access to Edinburgh and Glasgow, also to Lanarkshire and the Lothians. It is also near Kirknewton Station, from whence a line could be constructed into the new premises.

The provision of power, heat and light would not be an insuperable problem. I am in favour of bringing the prison to the Lothians, with all the attendant plus factors.

I feel that my suggested site is the better of the two.
Issues of Substance
Freedom to roam, and a freedom hard won
Letter 70

This is a beautiful area at present and who will be able to say the same if a huge prison with large fences and walls is built in the middle of it.

... People need space to thrive and if it is not given then it is likely that this area will soon suffer from the same problems as some parts of Livingston and other 'concrete jungles'.

Letter 16

There are a large number of wild orchids in this area. There has been enough industrial and housing expansion in West Lothian. It is time to leave some of the natural environment alone.

Letter 11

Conservation of buildings, environment and a way of life:— Should be taken into consideration. For many years the “bing” area between West Calder and Addiewell was an eyesore. However after many hours of work, wild life has returned, new trees plants etc have been encouraged and at last some countryside to be proud of has appeared. Now it is proposed to replace with a prison!!!

Letter 54

I have been a resident in this area all my life, growing up in the local village and moving to Muirhall Mains when I married. I enjoy walking and having the wild life on my door step. If plans go ahead all this is going to change, the freedom I once had will be taken away as I walk in the proposed site with my son on a regular basis. I also enjoyed taking my son along to the pond to fish “that’s gone”. It was a pleasure I visited the site during the summer when thousands of wild Orchids were in bloom along with many other wild flowers and plants. Proliferation on such a scale is
Prison as Drug Dealer
Letter 1

The presence, and use, of drugs in prisons is a well documented fact. The transport of drugs into prisons appears unstoppable, and this will lead to these drugs being more easily available to users within the community. The sale and use of banned drugs in any community is obscene and West Lothian Council should not be facilitating what must be an expected increase in drug usage by granting permission for the building of a prison where, as a direct result, the

Letter 41

As a parent of young children, I also have concerns on the potential issue of a greater presence of drugs within the area. It is well understood that the prison population have a high proportion of drug misuse which will be met by drug pushers and suppliers moving into the area. This is something that should be prevented.

Letter 65

5. As with all prisons there will inevitably be drug problems among the prisoners. These drugs are brought into prison by those visiting and as visitors will have to pass through Addiewell, no doubt stopping off in shops and/or public houses in Addiewell, this could lead to increased drug problems in the village.

Drug Problems - It is a well known fact that drug problems exist in all prisons, we are extremely concerned that drug trading will increase locally, it is also a certainty that on occasions drugs destined for the prison will be dumped in our community. This is an addition that is not required in these villages.
The wider debate about prisons in society

Sunday Times). Yet only 10% of all burglaries are detected or end in conviction. Two women or teenagers commit suicide in prison every week because they should not be in prison but in psychiatric hospitals, which were closed to save money – the so-called “Care in the Community” programme. There is great controversy about Britain happily incarcerating more people than anywhere else in Europe. Therefore I object on the grounds that the SPS should address these frightening statistics and release those prisoners who should not be in prison, instead of imposing more prisons on innocent citizens in the south west of West Lothian.

On the BBC (27/11/04) it was announced that there is to be a pilot scheme in April of the “Tracking System” used in the U.S. (Florida I think) which has been found to be successful in reducing the number of people held in prison.

Before more prisons are built, I think we should wait to see what impact this will have as the numbers needing to be held in prison.

My final observation is that this is the wrong location and the wrong site for such a project. If the majority of prisoners would come from West Scotland, then surely it makes sense to build it there or better still, address the issue of large scale incarceration.

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An ignored, neglected community
By locating the prison in West Lothian this will not benefit the region and particularly not Addiewell, which is struggling with a negative image already, as it will have the stigma of having a prison name associated with it. The supposed benefits of the prison do not outweigh the negative.

A by-pass for West Calder was "on the cards" some 40 years ago but we seem to be the "forgotten" village. I understand from

We have to watch while other parts of the county have swimming pools, new community centres and sports facilities. I have lived here for 30 years and waited in vain for 20th century improvements to reach here. Into the 21st century this Council seems to think that foisting a prison on the

I do not accept this argument when the history of this site is a litany of activities from the mid 19th century which caused heavy contamination - brickworks, oilworks, coal mining, shale mining, the list goes on! However, now the die has been cast
Letter 65

As you will no doubt be aware Addiewell benefits little from West Lothian Council spending compared to say Linlithgow or Livingston (the council did not even bother to put up Christmas lights in Addiewell)

I therefore consider it of deep offence that West Lothian Council has put forward Addiewell as a potentially suitable site for a prison (perhaps a sports centre or swimming pool would have been more appropriate?). I note from the Environmental

Letter 22

and bred in Addiewell and have been a resident in West Calder now for the last 10 years. One of my main reasons for moving out of Addiewell was because I did not want to raise my children there because of the lack of amenities.

It saddens and disappoints me to think that, especially Addiewell, it is being used, as I see it, as a dumping ground. This is nothing more than CLASS discrimination, why not put positive feedback as opposed to negative feedback into the community of Addiewell. It is already a deprived area, why further it? I don’t see

Letter 46

I have serious misgivings about the design of the buildings and the impact they may have on an area which is only just beginning to recover from the unrestrained ravages of mining and the industrial revolution. It is highly likely that such a development will
a need of recognition

I would appreciate a response regarding this letter.

Yours faithfully

being the owner of this house I think it would be only good manners if someone had contacted us to advise and reassure exactly what to expect to see from our living room window.

I would appreciate some correspondence in regards to our objections.
HMP Addiewell Community
Prison Community

HMIP Annual Report 2007-08
Community Disorder

HMP Addiewell riots October 2009, January 2010 (BBC)
‘All prisons [in Scotland] have opened Links Centres, which make links with the community outside. Nowadays, a prisoner nearing release has, through the Links Centre, a much better chance of some housing arrangement, some benefits arrangement, some health care arrangement, some job-seeking arrangement being made and waiting for him or her on the outside.

‘The establishment of Community Justice Authorities could make these links much stronger still. So could the current talk of "community prisons"; this means prisons which are rooted in the community where they are placed, taking prisoners from that community and releasing them back into that community.’

(HMIP Annual Report 2007-08)

(SPS Estates Review 2002)

18. Basically, each prison operates almost like a small town with its own accommodation, places of work, health centre, library, and education and recreation facilities. Within the prison, different prisoners require different levels of security in order to be safe and for efficient operation of the prison.
‘For about 300 houses [of the 360 in Addiewell] there are only twelve privies of a most objectionable character. Ash-pits are provided, but they are built from about 15 to 20 yards from the houses, and as can readily be imagined, they are a positive pestilence in the summer time, and at all times a danger to the health of the community. Clothes poles are studded here and there in the back courts. Water is procured from some seventeen stand-pipes, and the sewage flows down by open channels. The sanitary conditions generally existing are bad in the extreme.’ Report on the Housing Conditions in the Scottish Shale Field, 1914
3 Modes of Community/Prison

- Prison apart from Community
- Prison as a part of Community
- Prison as Community
'Prisons as everyday, lived-in spaces, not exceptional spaces for the Other’ (Baer & Ravneberg 2008)

‘Betweenness’ (Entrikin 1991) and of Place
‘Beforeness’
The ideal prison

- Buildings should be safe, sound, secure, flexible in use, efficient to run and appropriate to projected future use.
- Design Capacity should be adequate for overall numbers and categories of prisoners (including contingencies).
- Staff Facilities should reflect the high value we place in our staff and should support them in carrying out their duties.
- Accommodation should be primarily cellular with 100% night sanitation.
- Prisons should be located, as far as is practical, near to relevant population centres.
- Accommodation and facilities contribute to SPS aims, KPIs, and Regime Development.
Small vs. Large

OPTIMUM PRISON SIZE

57. The SPS considers therefore that the way to achieve effectively adequate numbers of prisoner places is by building new prisons. At senior operational level in SPS, the view is that the optimum size for any new prison at the current time is around 700 cells or places. There will be circumstances where site factors and/or geographical location will require a decision to build at other than the optimum size. However the ability of a site to accommodate a 700-place prison will be a major factor in deciding on the suitability of that site. The key operational factors influencing this view are considered to be proportionality, management complexity, operational stability and cost per prisoner place, which are briefly described as follows:

SPS Estates Review 2002

Letter 5

and the small villages whom West Lothian Council treat with contempt. I understand that the following objections are “valid”.

• **Design Appearance and Layout:** It is contemptuous condescension to expect our villagers to be gullible enough to believe that a “5’ wall and fence will screen” this massive edifice from public view. Present and future generations of dwellers in, and visitors to, Stoneyburn, Addiewell and West Calder would see the monstrosity as easily as they see the slag heaps, our existing National Memorial to corporate greed and