

**From:** Scott Howard

Dear Pat

Loanhead Engine Road Planning application - 18/00065/DPP

In response to your letter posted this week into my house at 9 Engine Road I am writing to lend my support in objecting to the re-purposing of the industrial land at the entrance of the Ramsay Colliery pit on Engine road. I note that they, the land owners have also now (27.9.18) raised an additional planning application for a "Metal Dealer's License" (see attached photo of application) as well as this appeal against the planning application to bring a second vehicle dismantlers to Loanhead due to the location being semi-residential and outside of the old Ramsay Colliery site.

**To clarify my objection is based on:**

-The land is within 50m of residential and shopping areas on Station Road, Clerk Street and Engine Road and under 10m from homes and gardens

-The original scrap yard on Engine Road is over 100m from the nearest home and over 200m from shops and is at the back of the historic colliery site hidden behind the main colliery head building.

-Car breaking does not pay tribute to the Industrial heritage of Midlothian as stated in the planning application. The Loanhead skyline of chimneys does this properly. The attached homepage image from the Ace Car Disposal's own website is not the image of Loanhead's proud industrial heritage.

-Loanhead has developed into a desirable suburb of the growing nation's capital. Cala are selling houses at Straiton for over £400k. If we want continued investment in the area it would be wise of our elected officials to encourage investment in safe and welcoming residential areas and service sector job creation. I'd suggest that political effort ensuring that neither vehicle destruction or landfill sites are approved for land usage in the center of our charming village would be valued by voters across Midlothian.

-The owners of *Ace Car Disposal* have previously used the site to test and tune Stock Race Cars that they race at Cowdenbeath Junk Car races. They use the cars to advertising the vehicle dismantling business they run in East Calder. However (as witnessed previously on many Saturday and Sunday mornings by anyone within a 300m radius) - the repeated revving of these street-illegal cars has in the past created a lot of noise pollution

in Loanhead. These cars sound like they have little or no exhaust pipes in place. It is fair to assume therefore that they are largely well over 100db sound limit imposed at many race tracks and a return to this behavior from *Ace Car Disposal* returning to the site would create an anti-social nuisance to:

- The surrounding businesses who operate in the industrial estate
- People using any of the Engine Road or Clerk street Gardens
- Residents of Station Road
- Parents walking their children to school using the Engine Road "Safe Route to School" path to cross the Ramsay Bing.
- The new residents of the flats planned for the old library site who will use Engine Road for access to their homes.

**To conclude:**

I think that the council would be well placed to advice the land owners to making a planning application in principle to build affordable housing for the growing numbers of people moving from Edinburgh to Loanhead and other Midlothian villages close to the Bypass. In this fast changing world placing a *Car Disposal facility* between a primary school, new flats and the Loanhead shops seems like an obvious step backwards for the village. Surely better and more profitable opportunities exist for the usage of this land?

However if Midlothian Councillors do decide that Car Disposal is well placed in the centre of Loanhead, some reassurance that Stock Car / Banger Car race preparation should be banned from the site.

Kind regards

Scott Howard