# Scottish Government approval of Flamingo Land resort sparks record opposition at Loch Lomond



Plans for the controversial Flamingo Land resort on the banks of Loch Lomond have faced renewed opposition amidst escalating concerns about environmental consequences and community sentiment. The ambitious £40 million development proposal, which includes hotels, over 100 holiday lodges, a waterpark, restaurants, and even a monorail, has been met with resistance from local residents, conservation organisations, and political figures since its inception.

Originally proposed in 2018, the project was scrapped a year later due to public backlash. After revising its plans in 2020 to distinguish its offering from the existing Yorkshire theme park, Flamingo Land sought to re-engage local stakeholders. However, despite these modifications, scepticism remained entrenched, leading to significant public dissent. The site is situated within the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, a landscape renowned for its natural beauty, ancient oak woodlands, and rare wildlife, including red deer. Consequently, critics argue that the resort would compromise the park’s ecological integrity.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government controversially approved the development, overturning a decision by the park authority that had rejected the plan based on environmental grounds. This reversal triggered widespread outrage, with Scottish Greens MSP Ross Greer vocally opposing the move and describing it as an "anti-democratic outrage." He pointed to the outcry from prominent groups such as the National Trust for Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, as well as over 155,000 signatories from the Save Loch Lomond campaign, who have expressed their disapproval of the proposal.

Concerns have been raised regarding potential flooding risks associated with the nearby River Leven, which further complicates the project’s viability. A recent report from the park authority stipulated 49 conditions for the project's approval, however, many remain unconvinced about the feasibility of the development without significant ecological detriment. Local organisations, notably the Balloch and Haldane Community Council, have articulated their disappointment with the Scottish Government's decision, suggesting that it conflicts with the will of local inhabitants.

Supporters of the Flamingo Land plan contend that the resort could invigorate job creation and boost tourism in the area. Nonetheless, resistance continues to mount; a petition against the development has now amassed a remarkable 174,000 signatures, reflecting a growing unease among the public. As the situation unfolds, a public meeting has been scheduled for 30 May to further discuss the implications of the project and explore potential avenues for continued opposition.

As debates around this development unfold, it mirrors a broader conversation regarding the balance between economic benefits and the preservation of our natural environments. The case of Flamingo Land at Loch Lomond not only highlights the complexities involved in such large-scale projects but also underscores the importance of community engagement and environmental stewardship in decision-making processes.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14757329/Flamingo-Land-theme-park-planned-UK-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23423581.loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-most-objected-scots-history/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14757329/Flamingo-Land-theme-park-planned-UK-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/16/flamingo-land-resort-loch-lomond-shore-rejected-scotland), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm221w10wxo)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://greens.scot/news/150000-oppose-disastrous-flamingo-land-proposal-for-loch-lomond), [[6]](https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-s-loch-lomond-proposal-surges-past-100000-objections)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14757329/Flamingo-Land-theme-park-planned-UK-beauty-spot.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/16/flamingo-land-resort-loch-lomond-shore-rejected-scotland> - In September 2024, the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority unanimously rejected Flamingo Land's proposal for a £40 million mega-resort on Loch Lomond's banks. The development, which included two hotels, over 100 lodges, a waterpark, and a monorail, faced strong opposition from local communities, environmental groups, and politicians. Concerns centred on potential flood risks, loss of ancient woodlands, and the project's alignment with the park's conservation goals. Scottish Green MSP Ross Greer hailed the decision as a significant victory for the community and environmental preservation.
3. <https://greens.scot/news/150000-oppose-disastrous-flamingo-land-proposal-for-loch-lomond> - The Scottish Greens reported that over 150,000 individuals objected to Flamingo Land's proposal for a mega-resort at Loch Lomond. The objections highlighted environmental concerns, including potential damage to ancient woodlands and the risk of flooding. The National Trust for Scotland, Woodland Trust, and Ramblers Scotland also opposed the development. Scottish Green MSP Ross Greer emphasised the unprecedented scale of opposition, urging the Scottish Government to reject the application to protect the natural environment.
4. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23423581.loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-most-objected-scots-history/> - A report by The Herald highlighted that Flamingo Land's proposal for a holiday resort on Loch Lomond's banks became the most objected-to plan in Scottish history. The initial £30 million project faced 60,000 objections, but the revised plans surpassed this, with over 65,000 objections. The development included a hotel, water park, monorail, and more than 100 lodges. Environmental groups, including the Woodland Trust, maintained their opposition due to concerns over the loss of woodland and potential environmental impact.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm221w10wxo> - In September 2024, the BBC reported that the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority rejected Flamingo Land's £40 million resort proposal. The development, which included a monorail, waterpark, hotel, and restaurants, faced opposition over flood risks, increased traffic, and potential impacts on local businesses. Over 174,000 individuals signed a petition against the development. Scottish Green MSP Ross Greer criticised the proposal, stating it would jeopardise the local economy and that most of the jobs created would not be full-time roles.
6. <https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-s-loch-lomond-proposal-surges-past-100000-objections> - The Scottish Greens reported that Flamingo Land's proposal for a mega-resort at Loch Lomond received over 100,000 objections. The development plan included 104 woodland lodges, two hotels, a waterpark, monorail, and 372 parking spaces. Scottish Green MSP Ross Greer highlighted the unprecedented scale of opposition, urging the Scottish Government to reject the application to protect the natural environment and local communities.
7. <https://greens.scot/news/over-80000-oppose-destructive-flamingo-land-development-on-shores-of-loch-lomond> - The Scottish Greens reported that over 80,000 individuals and organisations objected to Flamingo Land's proposal for a mega-resort on Loch Lomond's banks. The development plan included over 100 self-catering lodges, two hotels, a waterpark, monorail, and 370 parking spaces. The National Trust for Scotland, the Woodland Trust, and Ramblers Scotland also opposed the development due to concerns over environmental impact and potential flooding risks.