# Scottish government faces backlash over Flamingo Land expansion at Loch Lomond



An emergency meeting has been convened in Balloch, reflecting rising tensions in the community following the Scottish Government's decision to uphold an appeal from Flamingo Land, a Yorkshire-based theme park operator. While the government official did add 49 conditions to this application, local voices, including the Balloch and Haldane Community Council, are demanding that the Scottish Government reverse its decision to recommend planning permission. The outcome of this appeal is critical as it impacts the natural landscape of Loch Lomond, a cherished national asset.

Local MSP Ross Greer highlighted concerns over the government's inconsistent approaches to environmental matters, drawing a parallel to the intervention the same ministers made to facilitate Donald Trump's golf course in Aberdeenshire in 2012. "Ministers have the power to reject and recall this decision but they won’t do it despite having done so previously for developers like Donald Trump," Greer remarked, emphasising the perception that the government prioritises the interests of wealthy developers over the environment and local communities. This statement underscores a growing frustration with government actions perceived as favouring financial interests rather than ecological integrity.

The planning proposal for Lomond Banks, amounting to £43.5 million, envisions a significant expansion at Balloch, including two hotels, over 100 holiday lodges, a waterpark, and a monorail. However, this development has been met with fierce local opposition, with residents adamantly stating their disapproval. "I don’t know one person in Balloch, or Dumbarton, or in surrounding areas, that wants this," one resident explained. With the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority having unanimously rejected the plan due to environmental concerns, including risks of flooding, the community's fight against the proposal is seen as a pivotal moment in the broader battle for Scotland’s natural heritage.

Public opposition has been particularly strong. The Scottish Greens, led by Greer, have gathered over 155,000 objections against the project, making it one of the most opposed planning applications in Scottish history. This grassroots movement encapsulates a broader sentiment against developments deemed destructive to Scotland’s environment. Greer asserted that the government should revoke its agreement with Flamingo Land to allow the community to propose more sustainable alternatives.

The Scottish Government has maintained a measured response, with a spokesperson noting that the decision is still live due to ongoing discussions. "An independent reporter has issued a decision intimating that he is minded to grant planning permission in principle for the proposal subject to 49 planning conditions," they stated. However, the juxtaposition of government promises to protect the environment against these ongoing developments raises questions about the effectiveness of such assurances.

There is a palpable sense of urgency in Balloch, as local residents prepare to mobilise their resources and voices in opposition to what they view as an overly aggressive approach to commercial development. As protests continue, including vocal demonstrations outside the Scottish Parliament, the coming months may define not only the fate of Flamingo Land's proposal but also the ongoing dialogue about community rights, government accountability, and environmental stewardship in Scotland.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25199867.protesters-warn-scottish-government-flamingo-land/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://news.stv.tv/west-central/loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-rejected-by-park-authority)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25199867.protesters-warn-scottish-government-flamingo-land/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-rejection-is-a-huge-victory-for-community-nature-and-for-scotland)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-appeal-is-nightmare-before-christmas-say-greens), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm221w10wxo)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://greens.scot/news/over-80000-oppose-destructive-flamingo-land-development-on-shores-of-loch-lomond), [[7]](https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/scottish-news/24553367.150k-people-object-flamingo-land-plans/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/25199867.protesters-warn-scottish-government-flamingo-land/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-rejection-is-a-huge-victory-for-community-nature-and-for-scotland> - In September 2024, the Scottish Greens celebrated the rejection of Flamingo Land's proposed mega-resort in Balloch, describing it as a significant victory for the local community and Scotland's natural environment. The development, which included 104 woodland lodges, a water park, two hotels, a monorail, and 372 parking spaces, was unanimously opposed by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority due to environmental concerns and overwhelming public opposition. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, had been campaigning against the project for eight years, gathering over 150,000 objections from the public. Greer called for Flamingo Land to abandon their plans permanently and for the Scottish Government to end their exclusive agreement with the company, allowing the community to propose alternative developments.
3. <https://greens.scot/news/flamingo-land-appeal-is-nightmare-before-christmas-say-greens> - In December 2024, the Scottish Greens criticised the Scottish Government's enterprise agency for extending Flamingo Land's exclusive contract, enabling the company to appeal the rejection of their mega-resort application. The development, proposed for the southern shore of Loch Lomond at Balloch, had been unanimously rejected by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority in September 2024 due to environmental concerns and public opposition. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, had gathered over 155,000 objections against the project and called for the Scottish Government to end Flamingo Land's exclusive agreement, allowing the community to propose alternative developments.
4. <https://news.stv.tv/west-central/loch-lomond-flamingo-land-resort-rejected-by-park-authority> - In September 2024, the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority unanimously rejected Flamingo Land's £40 million proposal to build a holiday resort on the banks of Loch Lomond. The development included over 100 lodges, two hotels, a water park, monorail, and 372 parking spaces. The decision followed a six-year-long battle between the developers and local decision-makers, with concerns raised over environmental impact, flood risk, and increased traffic. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, had gathered over 155,000 objections against the project, making it the most opposed planning application in Scottish history.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm221w10wxo> - In September 2024, the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority rejected Flamingo Land's controversial proposal to build a £40 million holiday resort on the banks of Loch Lomond. The development included a monorail, water park, hotels, and restaurants. The decision was based on environmental concerns, including flood risk, and the impact on local businesses. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, had gathered over 174,000 signatures against the project, highlighting widespread public opposition.
6. <https://greens.scot/news/over-80000-oppose-destructive-flamingo-land-development-on-shores-of-loch-lomond> - In February 2024, over 80,000 people and organisations lodged objections against Flamingo Land's proposal to build a mega-resort on the banks of Loch Lomond. The development included over 100 self-catering lodges, two hotels, a water park, monorail, and 370 parking spaces. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, described the proposal as the least popular planning application in Scottish history and called for the community to be freed from the anxiety and uncertainty caused by the plans.
7. <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/scottish-news/24553367.150k-people-object-flamingo-land-plans/> - In September 2024, more than 150,000 people objected to Flamingo Land's plans to develop on the banks of Loch Lomond. The proposal included over 100 holiday lodges, two hotels, a water park, a monorail, 372 parking spaces, shops, and more. The Scottish Greens, led by MSP Ross Greer, described the proposal as the most unpopular planning application in Scottish history and called for the community to be freed from the anxiety and uncertainty caused by the plans.