

Dear Politicians,

Do not rush the third stage of the Planning Bill. Go back and take time to review planning. Planning Bill, as amended is a shambles and impossible to tidy up during a session on the floor of the Scottish Parliament.

You need to move the system from a development licencing system to a true planning system. Even up the system by giving communities the right to contest decisions.

What has happened to Democracy?

There should be a strategy of planning applications being available for public comment/objection, prior to reports on infrastructure – water, sewage, roads and access being carried out. There has to be a rebalancing of the availability of Planning Officers to the Developer and the public – as individuals and organised groups.

We had more support from Westminster and Brussels than we have had from Holyrood in respect of the protection of the population from infection.

NPF needs to be in the legislation.

You come across as the volume house-builders lap dogs. We look to other countries for inspiration on other areas of policy. Why not do that with planning?

Land banking and building 'executive' detached houses are not 'sustainable' just because you tack the word on.

Early community engagement is an area you really need to address. No use everyone reacting when it's just about too late.

Build on brownfield sites before releasing Greenbelt land for development.

Find a way of financially supporting and protecting community groups and organisations that wish to appeal and challenge decisions.

Give us either an equal right of appeal – or no appeals above local government level as in Denmark.

Stick to your word and ask us young people what we think.

Need transparency in Planning, and more equality in decision making. If an application for Planning permission is turned down, that should be IT. – no repeat applications. Role of neoliberalism should be acknowledged and countered.

Planning should be holistic, not just about housing numbers. Design and Place-making should be central to the process.

Listen to public opinion. Don't become a dictatorship.

Emphasise the importance of community engagement in developing the main Issue Evidence Report – which fixes the whole scene for (mainly economic) development. Reject spurious 'Local Place Plans' – non-statutory sop.

Please pay attention to the views of communities.

All politicians are supposed to be our representatives; and the dangers inherent to everyone, including them, of devaluing our democratic rights, and their obligations to them.

Stop Gerrymandering. Stop Petty-fogging. People before profits. Tax the Internet giants

Take Community Empowerment seriously in relation to the Planning System.

This system was meant to be simpler and faster, there's been no great change there. Pre-application discussions should be carried out earlier in the planning process and involve the wider community so any issues are discussed and resolved before the application is lodged in order that objections are limited.

Push hard for Community Right of Appeal.

Equal Right of Appeal is essential for a democratic planning process. Also early communication of all pre-application changes in the development plan to those affected.

Listen to the people.

Clarify Scottish Planning Policy. Disprove or accept amendments.

Great need for 3rd party right of appeal. Undue influence of developers.

Need for training of councillors, Community Councils on planning complexity. Greater transparency.