Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from E Willson

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to give my views on the new Planning (Scotland) Bill. I believe people have until February 2nd to give feedback.

I believe you need to think more long term, be more radical and strengthen the power of local authorities.

I am fed up with:

Seeing land and property speculators make a fortune from land which could be used to build affordable homes rather than sold on as buy to let properties.

Green belt and other protected land being built on for the spurious reason that something is in the national interest, ignoring local authority decisions and development plans.

We need to:

- Allow local authorities to manage planning for the long term community, not for short term gain. Give them more power;
- Prioritise the public and not for profit sector;
- Include people in meaningful consultation processes, not just box ticking exercises which are then mostly ignored;
- Be more imaginative with design and architecture. So much is too high volume housing with same old tired and unattractive look.

Yours faithfully,

E Willson