Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Claire Williams

I am asking for the committee to introduce a section to the Bill that gives communities a right to appeal decisions.

Equal right of appeal (ERA) has been practiced elsewhere in the world and has been shown to be effective. Particularly in regard to applications that are contrary to Local Development Plans or there exists a conflict of interest.

By not considering ERA for communities the proposed Bill makes a mockery of all the government’s pursuit of community empowerment. Large Scale developments can impact communities for decades - communities should have the right to be heard without having to take court action.

If local plans can be disregarded on appeal by developers, ERA is a minimum requirement for democracy. I would request most strongly that you include it within the new Bill.

Kind Regards

Claire Williams