Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Alice Gordon

Here are my responses.

Though all planning decisions are **required to be taken in the public interest**, this case of the development reveals the entire process hardly fit for purpose.

The current planning system, with a developer right of appeal and a “presumption in favour of sustainable economic development” is **explicitly NOT in the public's interest**, failing to secure good development and best practise and regard for true ecological sustainability and community empowerment.

The case of the India Buildings reveals a widespread failure of public agencies to uphold the Principles of Public Life, strengthening further the case for the introduction of an Equal Right of Appeal into the planning system to guard against development **NOT in the public interest**.

Though there are precious few examples, development guided by the public interest **should benefit all**. In aspiring to good development, any responsible developer would surely support the introduction of an Equal Right of Appeal, and even more importantly the rescinding of a “presumption in favour of sustainable economic development”, in order to secure a faithful planning system for the benefit of future generations.

In response to the 'game changing' planning review, an Equal Right of Appeal would go some way to overcoming the public's serious lack of trust and confidence in the current process, encouraging higher standards, enhancing scrutiny and strengthening the plan led system.

Thanks

Alice Gordon