My main concern is that members of the general public are given very little obvious notice of development proposals within their local community. By law a notification has to be placed within the local press, but this is often a VERY small entry within the "Notices" section of a select few editions of local press. I for one, do not buy newspapers anymore, I do most of my reading online and therefore it is nigh on impossible to find out about these developments, some of which are substantial and would have an enormous impact on local communities (I use the Europark proposal in North Lanarkshire as an example, it is an enormous development which is proposed over a massive area of greenbelt land, one of our only local remaining areas of greenbelt land. Had one of the locals not seen this small notice in the press, then most of us would have not had the chance to air our objections to it).

I disagree with the comments made by North Lanarkshire Council in their written submission. In point 6, they indicate that "the proposals will create an opportunity for more community involvement, but there is no guarantee that the community will participate. It is generally only at the point when there are detailed imminent proposals that could directly affect people, that they want to engage." This is exactly my point, local communities would most definitely engage if proposals were made clearer and more accessible to larger numbers of us. The use of a tiny entry in a couple of local papers is outdated and needs to be looked at.

The further comment in point 6 “The requirement for producing Local Place Plans is welcomed, but may not be understood by many communities” I just find quite insulting to be honest. There are a great many of us who would understand and would take great interest in such things, if we were only made aware they existed!

I trust that my comments will be accepted and look forward to hearing of the outcome of the submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen Stewart