Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Barbara Lyon

I have lived next to Edinburgh's Haymarket Development for 12 years. I have been to countless community consultations.

The materials and details presented at these community consultations have always been disappointing and often factually incorrect or confusing with scales of differing sizes for consented versus proposed etc. Never are they designed to be understood by a layman.

When you complain to the council about this they ask you to take it up with the developer - as it’s the developer’s responsibility to hold the relationship with the community.

This doesn’t work if the developer doesn’t see the value in the local community and there’s no one to hold the developer to account.

The current planning system does not allow for a sensible discussion amongst parties where good ideas can flourish and grow. It’s a miserable experience (for all sides as far as I can tell).

I would thoroughly support the Charette model - and suggest that bringing ALL stakeholders together would enable all sides to be heard and be understood and then perhaps some consensus could be reached rather than the existing ‘them and us’ culture that the current system enables with the Council keeping well out of the way.

Thank you for your time.

Barbie Lyon
Chair
Dalry Colonies Residents’ Association