Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Paul Smart

I would like to raise several points to be rectified in the planning review.

1. If a planning application is rejected by a local planning committee, I do not think that one individual in an office hundreds of miles away, should be allowed to overturn local expertise.

2. If a planning application is approved either by a local council planning department or the Scottish government reporter, there is no right of appeal to that approval, I would expect an equal right of appeal to exist.

3. I also feel that the notification process falls well short, when the application is on a site that has a designation of historic, national and even local importance.

4. These applications need a wider, national notification procedure.

5. Battlefields, war graves and other sites including SSSI should not have any housing on them and any other building applications should be heavily scrutinized. History and culture should not be sold to the highest bidder as has happened previously.

Regards

Paul Smart