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Planning Aid for Scotland is a company and a charity registered in Scotland which provides services to all people seeking to engage more effectively in the planning system and related activities which affect the environments of local communities. It is funded by the Scottish Government, Local Authorities, charities, members and sponsors and provides advice and training through its small complement of staff and over 160 volunteers from the membership of the planning profession in Scotland.

Our mission is to provide independent advice, information, training and support on planning and related environmental matters for citizens and community groups across Scotland.

Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) believes in a plan led system which gives clear direction to developers and communities. PAS takes an active interest in improving the way that spatial planning serves local communities, interest groups, minority and hard to reach groups and the wider public. We are especially interested in developing and sharing good practice in informing, consulting and involving all groups of society in planning in a transparent and equitable way.



Enforcement plays an important role in maintaining the credibility of the planning and development process. For many individuals and communities, situations which give rise to enforcement procedures are their first experience of the planning system. The revised arrangements for enforcement must therefore meet communities' needs if they are to help build confidence in the planning system and support culture change.



No comment



Q4 Do you have any views on the proposed level of information requested in the NID or any suggestions for other information, for example declaring that any suspensive conditions have been met, might be useful?

It would be useful if the notice included the same information on the developer's agent, if an agent is retained and in so far as it is relevant.

Q6 Bearing in mind that the purpose of the notice is to make people aware of the development and direct them to appropriate contacts for further information, are you content with the level of information to be included?

It would be helpful to include telephone numbers and email addresses for the developer and for the developer's agent, where appropriate. It would also be helpful if the notice highlighted the relevant local development plan and possibly any other supplementary planning policy or guidance. Including this information would help to raise awareness of the local plan as well as informing local communities of the circumstances of a particular development.

Q7 Are you content with the proposed categories of development for which notices would be required to be displayed, and if not, why not?

The proposed categories for which notices are required appear reasonable but consideration should be given to requiring the display of such notices for developments which affect protected areas or special areas such as SSSIs, Special Protection Areas, Conservation Areas or Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It can be argued that development which affects such areas is of interest to a wider public than those who would be informed through the neighbour notification procedure. Again, such notices would help to raise awareness of the local development plan and the circumstances of the development.

Q8 Do you consider this sufficient or would you like to suggest other criteria for the siting, display, size, etc of these notices.

The criteria should refer to the notice being 'readily readable by' rather than 'readily visible to'. It is essential that the notices can be read. There should be a requirement to display notices at as many points as necessary to ensure that all neighbouring communities are aware of the development.



38 It would be helpful to clarify what might constitute 'some other compelling reason' for a planning authority to serve a Temporary Stop Notice on a caravan occupied by a person as their main residence.

Q9-Q10

No comment.

Q11 Do you wish to comment generally on the draft regulations, RIA, EqIA or any other issues in respect of this consultation.

The EqIA could give more attention to the issues which visually impaired or disabled groups may have in reading or getting access to enable them to read notices. The regulations should give more emphasis to the positioning of notices so that they can be read from points which are accessible to all.

The completion of NIDs and other notices is not expected to generate a large amount of case work for the organisation but it is noted that PAS is identified as making assistance available to people with disabilities who experience difficulties with such notices. It should be noted that PAS would offer free advice on completing these notices to any individual or organisation which meets its eligibility criteria.



Planning Aid Scotland would be pleased to respond to any queries with regard to these representations and is always willing to consider a joint venture with the promoters of the consultation document to take forward further research or training on any aspect of the subject which relates to the core business of PAS.