

Bullingham L (Liam)

From: Michael Dolan [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2008 13:05
To: Development Management Consultation 2007
Subject: Development Management - Consultation Paper, January 2008

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I have had a look at the above document, and would make the following comments.

Section 1 : Pre - application consultation. I see this as being the most problematic area, and indeed made representations on this with regard to the ' Community Engagement ' consultation. It would be difficult for consumers of the process, to know where the material set out in Q1 - Q15 stands, vis a vis the Development Plan Regime & the individual scrutiny of planning applications. Notwithstanding recent Scottish Government endeavours to bolster the efficiency & effectiveness of the (local & strategic) development plan regime, the area identified in Q6 seems particularly problematic.

The First Minister at last Wednesday's Local Government & Communities Committee, made representations regarding the problems stemming from a complex regime of procedures.

Section 5 : Content of Applications : I think there is great merit, in setting out in such a robust & comprehensive form, the required content of planning application submissions, as in this document.

Section 6 : Design & Access Statement : I am concerned that this approach might create a ' planning by numbers ' situation, which would supercede the individual scrutiny of planning applications by the local highway authority. On a presentation matter, I don't know whether this section is too long, and might be more usefully presented as an Annex to the document.

Section 7 : Neighbour notification : I have long thought the transfer of this, from the applicant to the local planning authority, is as the late John Smith would have put it, ' unfinished business '. Within the general scheme of things, the proposed increase in the period of consultation, from 14 to 21 days would appear to be welcome.

Section 9 : Consultees : On a minor matter - Reg 30 (h) - I don't know whether the name, rather than the abbreviation should be used.

Section 11 : Decision Notices : The clarity provided, and proposed specification of approved plans on the decision notice, is to be welcomed.

I hope these comments are of value.