Kilmaronock Community Council

Chair: Gavin MacLellan

secretary@kilmaronockcc.org
www.kilmaronockcc.org

scotplan@gov.scot

Kevin Stewart
Minister for Planning

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Dear Sir

Planning for Scotland in 2050
National Planning Framework 4

Comments from Kilmarnock Community Council.

NET ZERO EMMISIONS
Reducing journeys and or journey times :

1) Encourage working from home – improving broadband particularly in rural areas where commutes are typically longer.
2) For those who cannot work from home, having community facilities with IT communication stations should be encouraged –> shorter commute to local hub than place of work.
3) Public transport to be made more attractive than personal transport – give communities a voice in planning routes, timetables and stop locations. Bundle unprofitable routes with profitable routes to service providers.
4) Integrate public transport to connect buses to trains. Provide waiting facilities (shelter and toilets) at community determined locations.
5) Provide safe and secure cycle parking at key bus stops as well as train stations

6) National Parks should be Audited for Environmental achievement of their activity and consequential decisions not just their own operations.
7) Carbon Emissions cost should be measured for new build at Planning Application - the Construction Carbon emissions count in Scotland's Zero emissions target of course.

8) Utility services installation such should be provided with certainty, Broad band will reduce transport, increase business and improve health but there is no certainty.
9) Visitor attractions (additional or new) with public transport should be given priority over those with out.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES & A WELL-BEING ECONOMY

10) 20 min neighbourhoods – remember rural communities form the majority of Scotland but policies are often targeted at towns and cities.
11) Most multi-house developments are designed by the developers to maximise their profits and not according to the need of the community where the development is being built. Community councils can voice local needs but there needs to be weight given to this in the Local Plans.
12) Location of such developments should be determined by best use of land or need rather than just whatever land the developers can manage to get hold of.

13) Organic development of Communities (villages) should be made easier but there are constraints from public service utilities such as water and sewerage, the cost of utility upgrades are not affordable to small projects or individuals. A finance solution between private community development and Scottish Water is needed.

BETTER GREENER PLACES

14) All existing natural assets should be assessed for level of protection needed. Every site should be rated and protected accordingly by discussion with community knowledge.
15) EIA's are being discouraged by both planners and developers as being too onerous – this should be reviewed and encouraged to be the other way around.
16) Should there be a medium level between full EAI and no EIA? Clear criteria could be developed that can be adhered to.

17) National Park Authorities should not be responsible for Planning since it's a conflict of interest. Loch Lomond National Park is failing its prime aim.
18) The Planning Review (EIA review and calling in) process should be under responsibility of a truly Independent Authority.

A WELL-BEING ECONOMY

19) Research has shown that shared green spaces are important to wellbeing – community gardens are becoming more commonly developed. This should be actively encouraged by provision of land to the community and the resources to maintain it.
20) Tourism planning needs to be holistic – tourist boards encourage more and more visitors without checking the capacity of the receiving community to absorb them all. Tourism infrastructure can and should be developed with community involvement rather than letting locals deal with the fallout while the tourism providers reap and keep the benefits.

21) "Over tourism" is a threat and should be managed by Risk assessment so as to prevent the problem arising. National Parks currently create problems before solving them.

For Kilmaronock CC

G MacLellan
Chairman