

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ARCHITECTURE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES

Meeting: “ NPF3 – Ambition Opportunity Place- Consultation”

At Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 28th May 2013 @ 5.30pm

Our Ref: EM R10-NPF3 Minutes 2013-05-28

PRESENT

Ailsa Anderson	Scottish Land and Estates
Ian Appleton	Apple Forth
Neil Baxter	RIAS
Jean Charlsley	Hillhead Community Council
Jocelyn Cunliffe	Gray, Marshall and Associates
Eric Dawson	Architecture and Design Scotland
Linda Fabiani MSP	Scottish Parliament (Convenor)
Anne Follin	Vangen James Consulting Ltd.
Cliff Hague	BEFS
Fiona Henderson	Crichton Institute, Dumfries and Galloway College
John Knight	NTBCC
Pat Lally	RIAS
Beryl Leatherland	Scottish Wild Land Group
David Liddell	Scottish Government
Mike Mackenzie MSP	Scottish Parliament
Ingval Maxwell	COTAK
Deborah Mays	RIAS
Gordon McGregor	CBI Scotland/Scottish Power
Craig McLaren	RTPI (Treasurer)
Nikola Miller	RTPI
Andy Milne	SURF
Paul Morsley	IGLU
Kirsty Murray	Planning Aid Scotland
Andy Myles	Scottish Environmental Link
Hamish Neilson	Landscape Institute Scotland
Ann Packard	RSA
Bill Pagan	BEFS
Colin Proctor	Scottish Futures Trust
Simon Rennie	CSGN Support Unit
Peter Riddoch	Peter Riddoch Architect
Clare Symonds	Planning Democracy
David Somervell	University of Edinburgh
Charles Strang	RTPI
David Thompson	DPT Urban Design
Jean Urquhart MSP	Scottish Parliament

Marion Williams	Cockburn Association
Clare Winsch	Landscape Institute Scotland
David Wood	Planning Aid Scotland

APOLOGIES

Anthony Aitken	Colliers International
Jane Atterton	SRUC
John Bury	City of Edinburgh Council
Jenny Clark	Scottish Tourist Guides Association
Tony Fitzpatrick	Crichton Institute, Dumfries and Galloway College
Neil Forrester	Smith Scott Mullan Associates
Thomas Glen	COSLA
Sue Hudson	Sue Hudson Planning Ltd.
Jonathan Hughes	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Helena Huws	Scottish Canals
Keith Irving	Living Streets Scotland
Christine Kelly	Central Scotland Forest Trust
John Lord	Yellow Book
James Millar	Ironside Farrar
Alexa Morrison	RSPB Scotland
Eugene Mullan	RIAS
Miles Oglethorpe	Scottish Government
Gwen Raez	Visit Scotland
Bob Salter	Geddes Consulting
Ninian Stewart	Centre for Stewardship
Keith Winter	Fife Council
John Wright	Strutt & Parker LLP

1.0 WELCOME

Linda Fabiani MSP welcomed all present to the meeting.

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE MEETING THEME -

David Liddell, Scottish Government – Directorate for Local Government and Communities

Introduction

David is a member of the Scottish Government's NPF3 Team. He is a Senior Planner with territorial responsibilities for the North of Scotland and policy responsibilities for rural development and marine planning.

Presentation:

David spoke about how NPF3 is a long-term spatial strategy as an introduction to the topic and welcomed views on the current draft. There are four main sections within NPF3 which are colour co-ordinated for clarity.

- Grey: **low carbon infrastructure** with regards to renewable energy offshore energy, etc.
- Green: considering **the environment** with concern for resources. Sustainability, recreation, protection, as well as tourism and leisure come into this section.
- Orange: **the economy**, mainly focused on cities and does look at towns also as hubs of activity. Six areas in particular across the North-East and Central belt identified for activity.
- Yellow: **transport infrastructure**, considering the spatial implications and reflecting the well established existing transport. Includes projects such as HighSpeed2.

There were over 250 bids for NPF3. This has been narrowed down to 14 national developments. All submissions and analysis of these is published online. This is part of the new approach to being open and engaging by providing as much information as possible for feedback, review and discussion before the final publication in June 2014.

3.0 COMMENTS ON NPF3 – INITIAL BUSINESS VIEWS -

Gordon McGregor - Scottish Power

Introduction

Gordon is Energy and Environment Director at ScottishPower. He also serves on the Council of CBI Scotland, is a main member of the 2020 Climate Group and on the board of the Scottish European Green Energy Centre. At ScottishPower, he is responsible at a corporate level for environmental management, regulation and R&D. He has wide experience in climate change issues at UK, US and international level.

Presentation

The main focus points from this business perspective were energy, waste management, communication and transport.

Windfarms, renewables and wild land planning are all very important issues which present constant challenges and it is good to see their presence in NPF3. Marine renewable are at the very foremost which is considered very positive for the future of energy.

However it would be beneficial to also involve gas and coal energies. These resources will still be being utilised for the foreseeable future in conjunction with modern energy technologies. There is also a requirement for greater energy storage. A greater provision or a storage scheme forms a very critical part of the energy system and it is felt this needs to be considered further.

Waste needs to be more prevalent. Perhaps the introduction of a strategic waste system with appropriate capacity and facilities to handle our waste. Recycling is key.

NPF3 supports active travel which is very welcomed; there are greater connections between town and city- although there is the feeling that this is not fully resolved yet. The cities have a

strong role within the NPF but are the integration of the cities good enough for the vision as a whole.

Very much in support of High Speed 2 and there is a desire to keep this project in this NPF and not moved into a draft four years from now.

4.0 A SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE ON NPF3 –

Andy Myles – Scottish Environment LINK

Introduction

Andy is currently the Parliamentary Officer with LINK, and has worked in the past as an NHS manager, for the Scottish Liberal Democrats, for RSPB Scotland and as a Special Adviser in the Scottish Government. He is an elected member of the SCVO Policy Committee.

Presentation

There has been a serious progress in the past decade and it is very positive that all the documents (NPF3, SPP, NMP, etc) are separated whilst being integrated. Felt that there could be better links across these. As world leaders in the fight against climate change we should be very aware of how important these documents are.

Very concerned at the concept of 'sustainable economic growth' in particular.

The inclusion of sustainable development is very much supported, however, where you have sustainable economic growth we can also get unsustainable economic growth and this is worrying.

Economic growth is not always sustainable and there is a feeling that this needs to be considered very sensitively within NPF3.

If we can get renewable in the right place then it is very strong in terms of energy. The document is certainly moving in the right direction.

Supports the central Scotland green network and active walking and cycle paths. There are some very good national developments and hopes NPF3 will remain this way with no surprises in the final publication.

In regards to spatial planning it is felt this should reflect land, air and sea. A greater connection amongst these networks would be very beneficial.

5.0 A COMMUNITY PLANNING PERSPECTIVE ON NPF3 –

Andy Milne – SURF Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network

SURF is Scotland's independent network of regeneration practitioners, policy makers and academics.

Introduction

Andy became Chief Executive of SURF in 2003. Prior to that, he spent 10 years as co-ordinator of the Wester Hailes Representative Council which was frequently cited as a model of community led innovation and service delivery. He originally trained as an architect and is a director of the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

Presentation

The relationships within planning are key. We are all in this together and planning is the key out the current economic downturn and more.

Planning needs to address resources and allocation. We should look to improve wellbeing in what we are trying to achieve.

There is a realisation that policy tends to follow reality three years down the line. If we think ahead we can potentially solve issues as they arise instead of after they have already occurred. NPF3 makes good references to linking 'community planning' to 'community' and 'planning'. Very positive to see this being recognised.

The draft doesn't express enough around the city connections. These need to be emphasised more as do the regions surrounding the cities. It is also felt from this table that economy is too strongly stressed and needs to be looked at further.

We should embark in creativity and promote our culture, history and diversity in all that we propose for our future.

6.0 DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC

There was significant discussion on the subject involving a number of people from various professional backgrounds. The following are the key points which arose amongst attendees:

KEY POINTS

- The emphasis on energy within NPF3 raises concern. There is currently a halt within the industry and, furthermore, if all proposals are to go ahead the volume of jobs created may be twice the size of the area surrounding the developments. Where will they all live?
- A recent report on Scottish Island Renewable Projects published this month looks into this in greater detail. The increase in jobs also relates to an increasing population combined with an aging workforce for these types of skills, please see link for report.
- There was reference to a publication in May 2013 on Scottish Islands Renewable Project Baringa.
- Communities look to their local authorities for guidance and/or permission. We must look to change this. Embrace the concept of decentralised energy- more community energy schemes. Smaller towns on the agenda to incorporate fully the idea of community and place-making.
- What are the social benefits of national developments and investments? Is it a fair

distribution i.e. per head per region? We must aim for equal allocation of the benefits.

- The NPF should consider a much longer timescale e.g. 50 years in the future. Need to consider what we want to drive for; take account of what we have as well as what we could have.
- Can we be sure NPF3 actually influences decisions? The NPF can give the right market signals by supporting particular types of activity and development for future directions.
- How can our energy technologies be promoted when often go unnoticed, for example, geothermal and solar panels? Vast amounts of energy from solar are on the rise. For Scotland, marine renewables are very key. We are looking at a renewable future.
- NPF3 is a national strategy and therefore cannot cover everything. The document must try to equal the balance of free operation and planning needs. Allowing the private sector to work freely within a guiding framework.
- It is limited to long term planning and is must be very broad in order to allow the space and opportunity for communities and businesses to identify their own opportunities.
- NPF3 is good draft, it is not perfect but it is in the right area. It is an ambition document focusing on the key national priorities attempting to get the balance right.

7.0 Close of meeting

Linda thanked all of the speakers and everyone for their involvement and attendance.