

Changes proposed by Ministers could vandalise our Green Britain

60 years of clear planning rules to protect our countryside are to be scrapped, in a desperate act to try and stimulate construction firms!

New rules will force planners to “presume in favour” of countryside development to “support economic growth” in denial of its dangers.

We have contacted you to ensure that you are aware of the alarming new government NPPF planning proposals that we are reacting to in this bulletin. Groups throughout Britain such as the National Trust, RSPB & CPRE are urgently challenging the NPPF.

Access to the full details of the governments radical proposals are available via Google please see NPPF the draft National Planning Policy Framework. We believe that your organization takes a concerned interest in matters that affect the whole community in this country, and invite you to consider also taking urgent action to have your say on the NPPF proposal.

Government published the NPPF for consultation recently, just after the beginning of the parliamentary recess, making many blanket claims and employing marketing terms that are not quantified or credibly defined. e.g. The “presumption” now to be automatically “in favour of sustainable building”, in fact that could mean anything without clear interpretation! They claim to be “simplifying the planning system to enable fast decisions” on complicated and controversial matters, we argue that such debates always deserve time to resolve properly. With the new pro-construction NPPF wording and its contradictory environmental protection jargon, powerful construction companies can easily employ lawyers to exploit planning policy to their own benefit.

It is very surprising that a Government claiming to be committed to “Localism” and “The big society” should publish a document that leaves local people the planners and Councils almost toothless! We need greater not less protection for our Green Spaces, Parks, Countryside and our ever more important Food Production green farming land.

We need a proper debate on planning before its too late, remember how a Treasury’s Kate Barker report started mass rural building in a failed effort to reduce house prices. Contrived *short term* growth led planning via the NPPF is happening again, this time we can stop it if we all unite and make our views known.

Response to your local MP and formally to the Consultation needs to be made before the 17 October deadline, can you please advise your membership about the NPPF proposals and invite them to write to their MPs. Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully

For SOGS; The Save Our Green Spaces affiliation of spontaneous independent local campaigners linked together representing the voice of both City and Rural people.

