

PRESS STATEMENT: LABOUR'S PLANNING PROPOSALS

The Community Planning Alliance seeks to bring together communities campaigning against inappropriate development so that they can support each other, ensure consultation regulations are followed and initiate positive change that benefits citizens (not shareholders).

As an organisation, we seek:

- greater participation for communities in planning
- greater environmental protections
- the right developments & infrastructure in the right places.

On the subject of community participation, Labour leadership must understand that communities are not "blockers" as they do not have the power to prevent development. "Nimby" is a pejorative term that is used to undermine those with genuine concerns about planning proposals. Instead, let's see moves towards co-creation and engagement for positive outcomes.

When it comes to the environment, we need the Labour leadership to provide direction through a focus on sustainability, nature, biodiversity and climate change in their proposals for planning. It is imperative that all policy changes adhere to the Environmental Principles policy statement which sets out how to support environmental protection and enhancement, with the aim being to leave the world in a

better state. Pandering to developers who wish to build on irreplaceable habitats, best and most versatile agricultural land, and other sites of ecological or environmental importance should be unconditionally discouraged.

And finally, we need the Labour leadership to bring more affordability to housing. However, relying on the private sector to deliver will bring neither numbers nor affordability.

New towns will need public funding to succeed, infrastructure (including sustainable passenger and freight transport, school places, green spaces and health services) must be delivered in advance of those growth plans. Nationally significant infrastructure projects should be delivered with full engagement before decisions are made and in accordance with the Treasury Green Book guidelines, to ensure best outcomes for tax-payers.

When planning for development, there is always a balance to be struck. Growth is only one side of the scales. Climate mitigation, nature's recovery and future food security must also be considered.

Sustainable development will only be achieved if communities are fully engaged and the Community Planning Alliance can provide insights, expertise and experience from the 600 campaigns registered on our map.

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