Call for Evidence: Security, Safety & Protest, the role of Human Rights[1]

Community Planning Alliance Response

13) What data on the policing of protest should be collected and made public (for example use of specific powers, arrests, use of individual data, equality impacts) to enable effective scrutiny?

There needs to be more understanding of what drives the electorate to protest. The data published should include reference to the alternative options those protesting had available to them prior to reaching the point of protest being the most appropriate action.

In relation to planning law, for example, the system is already biased in favour of developers. Those organisations can appeal a Local Planning Authority decision for any reason whatsoever. Communities cannot appeal an LPA decision for any reason at all (even if the proposal(s) are not compliant with policy). The government is also reducing community rights to challenge decisions in the courts and appears to be seeking to make the process much more expensive for citizens.

With the above in mind, communities faced with inappropriate and unsustainable development are likely to have no other option but to protest.

Restricting citizen rights, including in via the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023, is, effectively, criminalising participation in democratic decision-making.

Kind regards

Marj Powner

Vice Chair

Community Planning Alliance

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About the Community Planning Alliance

The Community Planning Alliance[2] is a national umbrella group for over 700 communities[3], all are campaigning against inappropriate development in their areas, and all disagree that decisions are being made in the 'public interest'. We have extensive knowledge and experience of the planning system, and our aims include seeking increased community participation, better environmental protections and the right homes and infrastructure in the right places.

[1] https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3871/
[2] https://communityplanningalliance.org/
[3] https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?ll=52.97433203327261%2C-1.0471043976708527&z=7&mid=1nFg3i1Ft5-K4LadaEMCb0wr17-I33Kk