

- Open letter to all English Members of Parliament -

21 JULY 2021

RE. DEVELOPING A NEARLY PERFECT PLANNING FUTURE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

As the government continues to develop reforms to the planning system through the forthcoming planning bill, I am writing to reiterate the key points from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) responses to the planning white paper consultations last summer.

I am asking for your support to ensure that the planning bill does not:

- further weaken and over simplify the planning system;
- further suppress the voice of local councillors on principal authorities and local councils endeavouring to represent their communities;
- further restrict members of the public from engaging with planning;
- further result in development on green-fields, green belt and/or important open spaces and ignore the climate emergency;
- further favour developers over communities and the environment;
- further expand permitted development rights;
- further ignore the key finding of Sir Oliver Letwin's 'Independent Review of Build Out' that developers are only prepared to build out planning permissions at a rate which does not affect market price;
- further ignore the need to support local authorities and local (parish and town) councils to deliver affordable homes;
- further ignore the case for a third party right of appeal against planning decisions;

- further neglect the need to strengthen and protect neighbourhood plans.

Furthermore, I would also ask you to support NALC's own proposals for a nearly perfect planning future – our own NPPF – from the perspective of local councils, which are attached to this letter.

If you require any further information please contact Chris Borg, policy manager via chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Baxter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Cllr Sue Baxter
Chairman
National Association of Local Councils