

# **Kilmacolm Residents' Association NEWSLETTER**

Issue – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The plight of Kilmacolm's Greenbelts under attack, was raised by the Kilmacolm Residents' Association, (KRA) with the 7 MSP's who are currently preparing, debating and voting on Scotland's new planning system, called the 'Planning (Scotland) Bill.' This new planning system will be how our new, and hopefully improved planning system, will work in the near future.

The 7 MSP's are on the 'Local Government and Communities Committee'. The Scottish Housing Minister Kevin Stewart MSP is also involved in this process and debate.

The KRA gave the 7 MSP's, and the Housing Minister, information about the struggles Kilmacolm has had with the 3 large private developers, who are all trying to gain planning permission on our Greenbelts, namely Gladman, Mactaggart & Mickel, and Taylor Wimpey.

All these 3 developers have gone outwith our current plan led, 'Local Development Plan', and our next 'Proposed Local Development Plan,' as voted for by our democratically elected councillors, and which also happens to be our Inverclyde Council's 'Settled View'.

At the 'Local Government and Communities Committee' meeting on Wednesday 31st October 2018, MSP Monica Lennon, picked up on one of the points we raised, the point of 'Repeat Applications', and was kind enough to raise this point at the meeting. This can be viewed on the recording of the meeting, quite early on at 9 mins 29 seconds. Here is the link to the recording of the whole meeting. Might be an idea to watch the first 15 minutes or so to get an idea of what is going on if you want also.

<https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/local-government-and-communities-committee-october-31-2018>

Or here is a video extract of just this part of the meeting,

<https://tinyurl.com/y8pus75k>

The point of 'Repeat Applications' concerns Mactaggart & Mickel, who are now trying for the third time no less, to get their development on Kilmacolm Meadow, (West of Quarry Drive) in Kilmacolm. Twice previously 'Refused' by Inverclyde Council - including one Refusal also by a Scottish Government Reporter - now Mactaggart & Mickel have submitted a 'Proposal of Application Notice', and they sent their diggers in a few months ago, damaging the Meadow by doing 'tests'.

As we have always stressed, we don't have any issue with house building, but we believe this should take place on the many vacant Brownfield and non Greenbelt sites currently available in both the Inverclyde, and the Renfrewshire Housing Market Areas, and throughout Scotland. Our countryside and environment should not be destroyed when there currently is no need, just for shareholders in private development companies, and a few individuals in top tier management, to make an awful lot of money!

It was good that at least one of our points was raised, at this lengthy and complicated meeting by MSP's! There is still a long way to go, and many votes and amendments to be discussed and made. Many other groups and bodies have been working for a very long time, years, to try and get a better, more inclusive planning system in our country. Namely 'Planning Democracy', and 'Scottish Environmental LINK'. The big vote on 'Equal Rights of Appeal' is expected to be voted on this Wednesday, 7th November. So we're all keeping an eye on that with fingers and toes crossed.

Hopefully at end of this process, we will have a fairer planning system in place, which puts communities and the environment at the forefront of planning.

In light of the recent global environmental crisis we now all face, nothing short of this will do.

Kilmacolm Residents' Association