

SUBMISSION FROM ANDY AND JONI BLUEFIELD

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the most important planning document in Scotland today and sets the planning framework for the next 20 years. The NPF is a legal document, once it has established that there is a need for development in a certain area there will be very little the public will be able to do to stop it. I bring this to your attention today because your urgent review is needed of the National Planning Framework (NPF) Consultation Process.

The government was required to provide a full consultation about the NPF. I feel this has not been done adequately from my own research and from the findings of the 'Critique of the National Planning Framework (NPF) Consultation Process' www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/NPFreport.pdf . We should have the right to influence strategic documents such as the NPF but have been unable to do this properly. The level of participation reached in this consultation allowed the public to hear and make their views clear, but did not ensure that their views would be taken into account and influence decisions.

The Government's own guidance states that many people feel it is difficult to engage in the planning system due to inaccessible documents, lack of expertise and the belief that views are not taken into account. Please read this report and consider its recommendations.

Regards
Andy & Joni Bluefield