

To answer these questions I will utilise my idea concerning Curtilage as a unit of basic human need. All those who care to be involved in planning debates will be able to measure the effectiveness of their own focus level of Curtilage, be it National, Regional, Community or Private, in exactly the same way. By nesting one within the other, we can ensure a more holistic approach may be achieved. By prioritising Basic Human Need over Private or Public Aspiration we can ensure an equitable planning system whereby nobody's basic human needs will be cruelly sacrificed in the name of the majoritarian good.

1.What development will we need to address climate change?

Each curtilage unit at every level should attempt net zero emissions by 2045, however the nature of how that is to be achieved should be decided by the resident community. In this way jobs and the economy will be more localised, further reducing the high commuter carbon footprint we currently experience. Places being marginally more self-contained will be more resilient to the long term impacts of climate change. I see climate change friendly places as having a more mosaic like habitat, as neighbours have the opportunity for collaboration as opposed to the clash in aspirations that we currently endure in planning.

2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?

In 2050 we will want to live in places that provide our basic needs and give us room to exercise our higher aspirations. We do not want our basic needs to be sacrificed for someone else's grandiose aspirations. Our homes will be dictated by Curtilage as a unit of basic human need i.e. physiological needs, security, sense of belonging and aspirational space. Every family unit and/or community is best to decide on what that form takes and should understand the elements of their curtilage that are potentially under threat as a neighbouring aspiration seeks expansion. Rural Scotland is a very healthy place to live however the current planning systems encourage migration to cities. As someone who has spent a lifetime trying to escape urban entrapment, I can tell you that it is the vacuum of human attitude that makes rural living tricky. For every young rural born urban dreamer there is an urban born rural champion. Unfortunately, all the resources go to the former. We do not need new settlements in rural Scotland, we need to stop speculators and landowners demolishing existing ones in order to create vast private aspirational space at the expense of basic human need. Existing communities will be regenerated by examining their communal curtilage and figuring out how to repair hundreds of years of damage caused by slap dash extractive development. Places planned through nested units of Curtilage will be more inclusive, diverse, creative, vibrant, safe, resilient and empowering.

3.What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone?

In 2050 our economy needs to be more localised in order to protect the climate, environment and social well being. It can still operate on a global level but we must figure out how to transport goods around without burning so many fossil fuels. Through proper planning of Curtilage we can ensure that our basic economic needs are satisfied through local economic hubs which tie into the wider global network necessary for aspirational desires and rare commodities. I am a champion of rural economic hubs with 40 years experience at micro business level. I have no doubt that these are one of the critical ways forward for rural Scotland.

4. What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?

In every unit of curtilage be that National, Regional, Community or Private there are Special Places which need protected. These places are our Natural Health Service and they give us a sense of belonging well being and security. When they are attacked we feel a great loss which is very bad for mental health. In discussing curtilage stakeholders need to prioritise their Special Places as many will undoubtedly be destroyed in the planning process. Planning through the unit of Basic Curtilage and collaborative aspiration will deliver quality opportunities and mosaic habitats. There is no need for all these horrendous planning wars that go on. Think, "Jack Sprat could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean...."

5. What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations?

I think our primary aspiration should be equity in Curtilage. Every household, business or public service should have enough quality infrastructure, be it private, communal, regional or national, to satisfy their basic human needs. We need to sort out the "spaghetti mess" of infrastructure we already have before adding to it with more aspirational bullying. Developments which asset strip and damage the effectiveness of curtilage are rife in this country, often causing generations of hardship to those who take up residence. COVID19 will dictate our future plans, I am sure, but the need for basic curtilage is unchanged and will remain unchanged in every form of community. In this time of uncertainty I propose we protect the basics and encourage more aspirational collaboration through an extensive discussion around the concept of curtilage.