

## **Response to Call for Ideas for NPF4**

From: Judy Wilkinson, April 28th 2020

Email: [REDACTED]

I welcome the call for ideas for NPF4 and the new approach. As a long time campaigner for more allotments I am pleased that NPF4 will have the status of the development plan for planning purposes, that its policies will have a stronger role in informing day to day decision making and also take into account regional spatial strategies which will be prepared by local authorities.

The outcomes to which allotments can contribute are:

- Improving the health and well-being of people living in Scotland
- Improving equality and eliminating discrimination
- Meeting any targets relating to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases
- Securing positive effects for biodiversity

Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was important legislation and the creation of Food Growing Strategies has been undertaken by the local authorities. The benefits that allotments and other community food growing initiatives contribute to health and wellbeing, equality and social justice, targets to address the climate emergency and improving biodiversity have been well documented in the Scottish Government's 'Guidance For Local Authorities Section 119 Duty to Prepare Food-Growing Strategy.' However for the spirit and potential of the Act and the Guidance to be implemented with local food growing taking place across Scotland, sufficient good quality land must be available where it is needed. Therefore green infrastructure should be part of NPF4 together with transport, energy etc.

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

Land use must be prioritised to ensure everyone who could benefit has access to a growing space within easy distance of their dwellings. In cities, parks, unused golf courses and disused areas should provide holistic growing spaces containing allotments, community gardens, orchards and small market gardens.

*Community growing spaces address many concerns of climate change. They involve local people in food growing, enable them to acquire information and skills, feed themselves and their families giving food security. A garden or a vegetable patch mimics a natural ecosystem supporting biodiversity. In Scotland there are 8000 allotment plots with big waiting lists in many urban areas.*

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

- (i) Food Growing Spaces within all New Housing Developments
- (ii) Re-organising and Utilising Public Land
- (iii) Making Use of Vacant and derelict Land

*The benefits of allotments and gardening are well documented and their contribution to regenerating communities, inclusion, diverse, creative, vibrant, safe, resilient and empowering. The Booklet "Plan to Grow- A Planning Guide for Allotments" from the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society has a succinct analysis.*

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

Food integrated into the planning system so adequate acreage is allocated and planned to satisfy the demand and supply of food security for all

*Food security, wellbeing of the citizens, and respect for the land must underpin the economy. 'Feeding Britain - our Food Problems and how to fix them' by Tim Lang, analyses the problems with our food system. 'Integrating Food into Urban Planning' edited by Yves Cabannes and Cecilia Marocchino - UCL press gives examples of this in other countries. .*

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

Guidance for NPF4 should link to Scottish Government proposals for Local Democracy, Good Food Nation and Health and Wellbeing

*We have to reach a situation where decisions on place can be agreed through constructive dialogue. Small local assemblies of interested parties, bringing together developers, planners, representatives of local groups and individuals who are interested in the regeneration or development plans for their area should be set up with access to information and time for discussion and review (as happens in the Citizen's assemblies). Initially this would involve time and resources but should save any later disagreements or conflict*

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

Physical: holistic growing spaces available within walking distance of everyones dwelling in cities and settlements together with access to land for growing everywhere.

IT: To enable robust community engagement, new tools to enable information, reports, recommendations and decisions to be disseminated quickly.

*The emphasis should be on listening (by all parties), efficient use of all available resources but not the production of glossy brochures or consultations undertaken by those not directly involved in the decisions. IT such as VSM (Viable Systems Models) with system dynamics and interactive mapping should be available on a local authority platforms, easily updated, transparent and participative. .*