

Friends of the Earth Falkirk is a local group of Friends of the Earth Scotland. The group has a membership of local volunteers who campaign on local, national and global environmental issues. During a climate emergency the concepts which threads through all our campaigns is environmental and climate justice.

1. What development will we need to address climate change

- As Scotland has a target of net zero emissions by 2045 it is important that there is a **Just Transition** for communities, such as Grangemouth, where the oil and gas industry has dominated for generations. The residents of Grangemouth believe they have been a “sacrifice zone” in the national planning framework for generations. Future developments should be encouraged to benefit industrial towns like Grangemouth where there would be an opportunity to support qualified workers to transition to the post carbon economy for the benefit of the community and not to the detriment. There should be no new fossil fuel developments permitted and the planning framework should encourage a Just Transition to a renewable economy.
- Communities around Falkirk have been under the threat of Coal Bed Methane extraction. A passionate local campaign highlighted the concerns and linked with communities across the globe. The uncertainty of the current Scottish Government Moratorium has enabled Ineos to hold the threat of fracking over the community without third party appeal. There needs to be a legal ban on all unconventional gas extraction and no incentives for fracked gas to be imported from impacted communities across the globe.
- New developments should tackle climate change and improve air pollution. The Planning framework needs to ensure that no new incinerators or developed in Scotland. By promoting the circular economy there should be no place in future planning in Scotland for burning valuable resources. There is a risk as we move to a low carbon economy business tries to use air quality improvements as an opportunity to pollute within the current air quality levels. When Forth Energy wanted to build a “biofuel” power plant in Grangemouth they angered local residents by claiming there emissions would not excuse the recent air quality improvements the town had witnessed.
- **Local communities need to have faith in the National Planning Framework.** After the Forth Energy were granted planning permission after a Public Enquiry in Grangemouth the Community Council resigned on mass. Why engage in the planning system and demonstrate the impact on their community with national experts supporting their cause for big business to win every time. Large scale biomass should not be categorised as renewable energy.

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

- All housing and commercial buildings should have energy efficient targets to reduce fuel consumption. Within social housing this would address fuel poverty and the health impact of damp housing.
- Planning should require new building to have materials which are sourced within a circular economy.

- Planning needs to integrate sustainable transport which encourages public transport and active travel. New housing developments should not be granted where there is an assumption every family will have a car to access out of town retail and amenities.
- Segregated cycle routes need to be central to new developments and not an afterthought.

3. What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy to benefit everyone?

- By promoting the concept of Just Transition development and investment should be encouraged in communities which will need to move away from the reliance the oils and gas industry. Grangemouth and Mossmorran are just two examples of communities where the transition from fossil fuels should be an opportunity to invest in renewable energy projects where there are currently workers and communities entitled to benefit after years of economic decline and community resentment due to concerns about air quality and oil companies ignoring the concerns of their neighbouring communities.
- Due to the impact of extraction industries in Scotland and beyond future planning needs to promote the circular economy. Scotland needs to leave as much carbon in the ground as we can.. This generation will be judged in the future by what we have preserved and not by the quantity of resources we have consumed and burnt into the atmosphere.

4. How can planning improve protect and strengthen the special character of place.

- The Planning Framework should give local communities the opportunity to define the special characteristics of their place and community and not have it defined by large scale developers and corporations.
- Agricultural land in both urban and rural communities should be preserved to enable the production of local food and reduce the reliance on food with extensive Foodmiles, as we address our national carbon footprint of our national diet.
- The protection of woodland and the creating of forests, as apposed to plantations, should be promoted with the framework.
- There needs to be protection of Scotland's unique biodiversity and celebrate the natural wealth without trying to put an economic price on it.

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

- Communities should be able to contribute to the definition of our national aspirations and not big business.
- There needs to be a mix of renewable energy developments which maximise the natural resources Scotland has in abundance. It is important the the right development is in the right place. Past inappropriate planning applications for wind energy became one of the barriers to Scotland meeting its wind potential and antagonised communities.
- The planning framework should promote community energy and energy co-ops

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