

My experience over the last eight years has led me to believe that there are a few areas that require changing or improving within the planning system, specifically relating to Brownfield sites.

Brownfield sites whether they are in the urban or rural areas should be prioritised over greenfield sites. This is certainly not the case in East Renfrewshire where Brownfield sites within the rural area seem to be protected by Greenbelt policy. All the remaining green areas within the urban area are being built on and brownfield sites not far away but in the 'rural' areas are completely ignored. One dangerous, contaminated site lies on the greenbelt boundary and within 150 meters of 1000 new homes that are being built on newly released greenbelt. This is not proactive or prioritising the correct sites for development. There is a dangerous brownfield site in Inverkeithing that has claimed the lives of many teenagers and others yet Greenbelt policy is being used as a reason to refuse a feasible remediation plan because it partially involves houses to generate the remedial funding, yet the site is surrounded mostly by houses.

With regards to the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register, the decisions to add/remove sites should not lie with the local councils. This creates manipulation and a lack of consistency as is proven in my case. A property can meet the Government Guidance for dereliction but the local council can still decide not to add it, even though the Government statistician agreed it should be registered. This therefore means that the annual statistics published by the Government are incorrect and the likelihood is that there are more Vacant and derelict properties than is stated.

After three years, my local council have refused to visit or survey my contaminated brownfield site and also refused to support a feasible remediation plan because it lies within the greenbelt. The Government guidance and several policies state that remediation plans are welcomed. This is not the case.

My site which is a redundant, flooded quarry is similar to other sites in other councils but they are registered as derelict and mine is not, despite it meeting all the guidance. This is not consistent.

The register on contaminated sites is very misleading. A site can have been tested and proven contamination yet the council will not register that site as confirmed contamination unless it is negatively affecting someone. East Renfrewshire has around 833 'suspected' contaminated sites and I believe zero 'confirmed' contaminated sites. This is incorrect as I can name many sites within East Renfrewshire that in reality are contaminated, including my own.

Regards,

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