

## **NPF4 – Call for Ideas**

### **Response by Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council**

#### **What Development Will We Need to Address Climate Change?**

- Baseload power generation/storage capacity
- EV charging infrastructure
- Universal high speed communications (broadband)
- Improved forecasting of climate change events that threaten communities
- Evacuation plans, procedures and drills to ensure that communities threatened by climate-change know how to respond to threats effectively and rapidly
- Greater investment in flood defences
- Greater investment in dedicated cycle paths

#### **How Can Planning Best Support our Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing in the Future?**

- Promote development of homes suited to expected changes in demographics
- Use development of public housing to provide counter-cyclical balance to private building cyclicality (build more public housing when private sector is retrenching and vice versa) to protect employment and retain skills
- Universal high speed communications (broadband)
- Long standing differences in health and quality of life are best addressed by understanding their causes and acting to alleviate them. Planning may have a part to play but is unlikely to provide a panacea
- Given expected population trends, it is unlikely that there will be a need for completely new planned settlements so focus should be on regeneration of existing communities
- New developments should include community facilities (meeting places, recreation areas, places of worship) to encourage community spirit. Existing developments that lack such facilities should be upgraded.

#### **What Does Planning Need to do to Enable Development & investment in our Economy to Benefit Everyone?**

- Planning needs to act in the interests of the nation as a whole and not to favour any sectional group or interest
- Planning should seek to facilitate development that is positive but should not seek to lead this (predicting economic development more than a few years ahead is an impossible task). Flexibility and responsiveness will be more important than following outdated roadmaps
- Unless it is anticipated that a fully centrally planned economy will replace the current mixed economy, planning should not concern itself with decisions that are best left to the free market.
- Deprivation is best addressed by understanding its causes and acting to alleviate them. Planning may have a part to play but is unlikely to provide a panacea

#### **How Can Planning Improve, Protect and Strengthen the Special Character of our Places?**

- The current planning system encourages green field/green belt development around the perimeter of our towns and cities while the centres of these places wither. This is creating a

“Polo Mint” style of settlement with the edges being pushed outwards and a gap developing in the centre

- Green belts should be strengthened and enforced not only to encourage renewal of urban centres but also to ensure that valuable and productive farmland is not lost to the nation.
- Zoning restrictions within urban centres should be reconsidered so that vacant shops offices and warehouses could be re-purposed for housing and or leisure

**What Infrastructure do we Need to Plan and Build to realise our long term aspirations?**

- See Climate Change Developments responses above
- We are likely to be living in a much less globalised world both as a result of Brexit and Coronavirus in future therefore:
  - Greater self-sufficiency in food production
  - Weaning ourselves off tourism
  - Less need for grandiose transport projects like high speed rail