



BULLETIN (50) 15 AUGUST 2005

CONSULTATIONS

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY: SPP 21: GREEN BELTS (SE 05/08/05) This SPP aims to strengthen and enhance the role of green belts and encourage greater stability to increase their effectiveness. Objectives are as follows: to direct planned growth to the most appropriate locations and support regeneration; to protect and enhance the character, landscape setting and identity of towns and cities; and to protect and give access to open space within and around towns and cities, as part of the wider structure of green space. Deadline for responses to this draft: 28 October 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/04154944/49451>

CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE FROM BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND (SE 08/08/05) Views are sought on the development of a framework for non-municipal waste in Scotland (including use of the planning system to promote waste prevention and recycling). Deadline for responses: 16 December 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/05101728/17300>

CONSULTATION ON REVISIONS TO THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS A BUILDING'S SUITABILITY FOR LISTING (DCMS 25/07/05) The DCMS is consulting on revisions to the criteria used to assess a building's suitability for listing. This is part of the UK Government's wider reform of reforming heritage protection systems which started with the transfer of the administration of the listing system from DCMS to English Heritage in April this year. It is hoped that revised listing criteria will help everyone understand better the reasons for listing particular buildings. The revisions will not change the criteria themselves but will provide a benchmark both for English Heritage and DCMS for recommending or making listing decisions and for the public who submit applications for listing. Deadline for responses: 17 October 2005.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2005+current+consultations/revisions_to_principles_of_selection_for_listing.htm

PUBLICATIONS

CHARITY ACCOUNTING REGULATIONS – RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION (SE 01/08/05) A summary of responses to the consultation which finished on 4 July.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/01104424/44256>

SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE: ANNUAL REPORT: RESULTS FROM THE 2003/4 SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLDER SURVEY (SE 04/08/05) This annual report presents main findings from the 2003/2004 dataset on a range of policy areas, in particular housing, transport and social justice. It presents data at national and local authority levels. Three technical reports accompany this annual report.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/03155211/52120>

EVENTS

NSI AGM TALK In advance of its fourth AGM on 15 September, the Natural Stone Institute will be featuring a talk on the Scottish Stone Liaison Group's *Glasgow Project*. The project aims to determine the skill level of the current workforce and also look at techniques employed to assess the condition of Glasgow's building stock. The talk commences at 5 for 5.30pm, is followed by a buffet, after which guests will be able to leave before the formal AGM begins. The talk will take place at the Royal Over-Seas League. Tickets cost £15, NSI Members attend for free. To book a place call 0131 440 9473 or email sarahbailey@nsiuk.org.

PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL 2005 Under the auspices of the RTPI, the Planning Summer School will take place at Heriot-Watt University, 2 – 14 September. The School presents three separate programmes covering a wide range of 'development' topics, running these three schools end to end with one for Elected Members and two for professionals. For further information call 01722 339 811 or visit:
<http://www.planningsummerschool.com>

21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION: SKILLS TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICE This conference takes place at Morpeth, Northumberland on 30 September, within the context of a two day Heritage Skills Fair, and is organised by the National Trust in collaboration with the Northumberland National Park Authority and Heritage Information. For further information contact info@heritageinformation.org.uk or call 020 7637 7744.

KNOWLEDGE MAPPING IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP This workshop will take place on 27 October, 12.30 – 4.30pm, at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. It forms part of a scoping study entitled "Knowledge Mapping and Bringing about Change for the Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE-KM)" with one of its objectives being to develop a comprehensive core research programme. This workshop is a part of that study and aims to establish the role of knowledge mapping in bringing about change in sustainable urban environments. For further information contact: Dr Rubina Greenwood on 0141 273 1365, rubina.greenwood@cal.ac.uk or Catherine Lessard on 01223 766 685 cl352@cam.ac.uk.

SCOTTISH STONE LIAISON GROUP CONFERENCE SSLG will hold a conference on 4 November at the Stirling Council Chamber, in association with Stirling City Heritage Trust. The conference will address the issue of indigenous stone reserves from a number of perspectives – further details are available from Alan McKinney at 0131 448 0313, amckinney@support-services.fsbusiness.co.uk.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

WARM WELCOME AT UK'S LARGEST WOODFUEL HEATING PROJECT (09/08/05) People from Glenshellach met Environment Minister Ross Finnie in Oban when he visited a community heating project which has been installed by the West Highland Housing Association. The biomass scheme will generate enough energy to heat 90 homes by 2008, using locally supplied wood. During his visit Mr Finnie said: "Community heating is of particular importance in rural areas of Scotland like here in Oban and I hope that the success of the West Highland Housing Association's project will contribute to a growing confidence in low-cost, wood fuelled systems in Scotland."

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/08/09104904>

SCOTLAND SPENDS £500 MILLION ON CULTURE (05/08/05) The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Cultural Statistics in Scotland 2004 found that over half of all cultural expenditure in Scotland in 2003/04 was on sport (27.4 per cent or £139 million) and parks and open spaces (23.5 per cent or £119 million). Other expenditure components included: 7.7 per cent (£39.3 million) - heritage and museums (expenditure on heritage, museums and galleries, and acquisitions).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/08/05105702>

NEWS RELEASES

HISTORIC SCOTLAND AWARDS OVER £3 MILLION IN GRANT AID (HS 05/08/05) Listed buildings throughout the country are to receive nearly £3.4 million in grant aid from Historic Scotland for their repair. Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport said:

"Over the last 15 years, Historic Scotland has awarded over £140 million in grants for the historic environment in Scotland. These funds have breathed life into our listed buildings and secured their survival. The Historic Environment Grant Scheme is a vital component of many important and imaginative redevelopment projects which regenerate and energise communities throughout Scotland."

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=16615>

LAUNCH OF SNH WORK ON COASTAL & MARINE NATIONAL PARKS (SNH 04/08/05) Scottish Natural Heritage has started a process which will seek views from a wide range of interests on the

functions and possible locations for Scotland's first Coastal and Marine National Park. In June Ross Finnie, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, announced the Scottish Executive's intention to create such Park. SNH has been asked to consider the statutory and policy framework and to identify potential areas for designation.

<http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/nw-displ.asp?ID=1251>

CABE TO EXTEND INCLUSIVE DESIGN ROLE (CABE 01/08/05) CABE, the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment, has been asked by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to take over the support and development of The Inclusive Environment Group; the key advisory body on the built environment needs of disabled people, with a specific remit for access and inclusive design. Established as a high-level working group, the IEG includes representation from a wide cross-section of disabled people, regulators, built environment interests and observers from Government.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/press/showPRelease.asp?id=739>

NEW POWERS TO SPEED UP THE PLANNING SYSTEM AND ENSURE DEVELOPERS DELIVER (ODPM 03/08/05) New powers for Local Planning Authorities to ensure that developers deliver on planning permissions and speed up the planning system have been announced by ODPM Minister Phil Woolas. The powers in the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act aim to reduce the uncertainty caused by speculators who benefit from increases in land value upon receiving planning permission but have no intention of development.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0162

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR TRANSPORT IN NATIONAL PARKS (DEFRA 09/08/05) A guide for transport solutions in National Parks has been launched. Transport and traffic management schemes in National Parks should balance the twin purposes of the Parks - safeguarding their sensitive environments whilst providing easy access for people's recreation and enjoyment. The "Good Practice Guide on Integrated Transport Measures in National Parks" is produced by the Defra, the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Welsh Assembly Government.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/country-0809.htm>

MOTIONS & BILLS

***S2M-3122 ELEANOR SCOTT: SCOTLAND'S GHOST TOWNS (01/08/05)** That the Parliament is alarmed by the devastating impacts of out-of-town retail parks, shopping malls and superstores on local retail businesses; is concerned by recent reports that the independent retail sector in Inverness is struggling to survive, with the loss of 22 small shops in the town centre so far this year, and believes that Inverness exemplifies a Scotland-wide problem; notes that the New Economics Foundation's report, Ghost Town Britain, states that "the decline of both small shops and wholesalers is closely linked to the ever-tightening stranglehold exercised by a handful of supermarket chains over the country's food retailing"; regrets the detrimental effect on local economies, producers and communities of the big four supermarkets' control of 75% of food retail in the United Kingdom, and urges the Scottish Executive to take all or any steps within its powers to stop the loss of local butchers, bakers, grocers and other small-scale retailers vital to the life of our communities.

***S2M-3138 PATRICK HARVIE: CAMPAIGN FOR A FAIRER PLANNING SYSTEM (01/08/05)** That the Parliament congratulates Scottish Environment LINK and the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) for their work in campaigning for a fairer planning system; recognises that public support for community rights in the planning system has been clearly demonstrated, for example in the Executive's consultation on rights of appeal in planning; acknowledges that the issues raised by LINK and the ASCC in their e-petition on the forthcoming Planning (Scotland) Bill are serious and valid concerns, and urges the Executive to consider the importance of community rights and public scrutiny in the planning system.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-18373 PATRICK HARVIE (15/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how the second National Planning Framework will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny before it is published and what opportunity there will be for the Parliament to amend it.

S2W-18279 MICHAEL MATHESON (08/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to promote Scottish architecture and how these plans are being implemented.

S2W-18258 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (08/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive when it intends to issue any revised guidelines on the location and role of onshore wind farms in the context of its renewable energy policies.

S2W-18139 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (01/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to bring forward new land reform proposals, including the timescale for such proposals.

S2W-18141 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (01/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will provide details of the forest planting rates in each of the last five years, also showing year-on-year percentage changes.

S2W-18201 STEWART STEVENSON (01/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what estimate it has made of the (a) number and (b) physical area of sites designated as derelict land in 2004, broken down by local authority area.

S2W-18248 SHONA ROBISON (01/08/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what payments have been made from the Heritage Lottery Fund to (a) national, (b) industrial heritage and (c) other museums in each of the last three years and for what purpose.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-18258) RICHARD LOCHHEAD: WINDFARMS

A The Executive has commenced a review of *National Planning Policy Guideline 6: Renewable Energy*. This review, which will be underpinned by strategic environmental assessment, will consider the need for a national spatial framework and/or regional targets for on-shore wind farms. It is hoped to issue revised policies for public consultation early in 2006. The role of on-shore wind farms in contributing to the Executive's renewable energy targets was one of a number of issues considered by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) in *Realising the 2020 Target - Future Generation Group Report 2005*, a copy of which is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. number 36765). FREDS confirmed that the development of onshore wind has an important role to play in providing the economic justification for the development of Scotland's grid, which in turn could also substantially benefit other renewable technologies which will come on stream over a longer time. The Executive has accepted the findings of this report. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (08/08/05)**

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Historic Scotland (HS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Chris Stuart cstuart@befso.org.uk or Jo Robertson jrobertson@befso.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.