

## CONSULTATIONS

### **HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR (SE 03/07/06)**

This draft operational policy paper invites views on Historic Scotland's policies and plans for providing support for the voluntary sector. Deadline for responses: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/consultations.htm>

### **LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK PLAN, CONSULTATIVE DRAFT 2005, STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - CONSULTATION (LLTNPA 30/06/06)**

Prepared following the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, this Environmental Report seeks to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of the Park Plan. Comments are now invited on the Report as part of a six week public consultation period. Deadline for responses: 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/plan/default.asp>

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## FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

### **PROPOSALS FOR A COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK**

This consultation will invite views on proposals for Scotland's first Coastal and Marine National Park.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Forthcoming/Q/rowId/11#conRow11>

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR QUALITY IN PLANNING 2006: GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION FORM (SE 23/06/06)**

The aims of the Awards are to stimulate the creativity of those engaged in planning, in the process and in the quality of development produced, and to raise the profile of good planning practice. Closing date for applications: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/06/07093112/0>

### **NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION – REPORT ON THE WORKING GROUP (SE 05/07/06)**

This publication records the conclusions and recommendations of the Neighbour Notification Working Group, on the detailed arrangements under which the new system of neighbour notification will operate in relation to development planning, development management and enforcement.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/03163235/0>

### **BARKER REVIEW OF LANDUSE PLANNING: INTERIM REPORT - ANALYSIS (DCLG 04/07/06)**

The Government announced in the 2005 Pre-Budget Report that Kate Barker has been asked to lead an independent review of land use planning, focusing on the link between planning and economic growth. An Interim Report has now been published.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501326>

### **HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS REVIEW – STEERING GROUP REPORT (DCLG 04/07/06)**

A new report from the Householder Development Consents Review Steering Group states that certain householder applications and those for small scale micro-renewable technology - such as solar water heating and small wind turbines - should be allowed to go ahead without the need for a planning application. The review also proposes streamlining the planning system for household extensions that require planning permission but where neighbours do not object.

## NEWS RELEASES

### **MEASURING PROGRESS ON DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SE 05/07/06)**

The progress to date of the Executive's achievements in sustainable development in Scotland and a new set of indicators which will be used to measure further progress have been published. The indicators have been refreshed and strengthened to reflect the key outcomes in the sustainable development strategy 'Choosing our Future', including new measures on carbon emissions and the uptake of eco-schools.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/07/05162105>

### **GROUND-BREAKING AGREEMENT ON OLYMPIC CONSTRUCTION (DCMS 04/07/06)**

The Government has signed off a ground-breaking vision developed with the construction industry to showcase the very best of British construction practices, using the Olympics as a live example. The document – entitled "2012 Construction Commitments" – covers six key areas of the construction process and is designed to promote collaborative working and ensure the successful delivery of the Games infrastructure, buildings and subsequent legacy. The Commitments were developed by the Strategic Forum for Construction's 2012 Task Group in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Trade and Industry. Areas covered include: Client leadership; Procurement and Integration; Design; Sustainability; Commitment to People; Health and Safety.

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press\\_notices/archive\\_2006/dcms093\\_06.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2006/dcms093_06.htm)

### **CABE CALLS FOR NEW FOCUS ON DESIGN TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME (CABE 03/07/06)**

The design quality of secondary schools built over the last five years is not good enough to secure the government's ambition to transform young people's education, according to a report published by CABE.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1364>

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## RECENT MOTIONS AND BILLS PROGRESS

### **FINAL PROPOSAL FOR MEMBER'S BILL: SARAH BOYACK MSP: PROPOSED ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND MICRO-GENERATION (SCOTLAND) BILL (LODGED 20 JUNE 2006)**

Proposal for a Bill to promote energy efficiency by requiring the Scottish Executive to support the means of small scale renewable and low carbon energy production both in new and existing households and business premises by adoption of regulatory, administrative and financial measures. A summary of responses to consultation on the draft proposal together with copies of each response and a summary of the responses, including the conclusions drawn from the responses, are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

### **FINAL PROPOSAL FOR MEMBER'S BILL: JOHN SWINNEY MSP: CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARIES (SCOTLAND) BILL (LODGED 29 JUNE 2006)**

Proposal for a Bill to extend the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park by including parts of the Eastern and Highland Perthshire areas. A summary of responses to consultation on the draft proposal together with copies of each response and a summary of the responses, including the conclusions drawn from the responses, are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

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## RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2W-27083 DR SYLVIA JACKSON (26/06/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive why new public sector buildings, including hospitals, are not eligible for grants or assistance to encourage the inclusion of energy efficiency measures similar to those available for private sector construction projects.

**S2W-27159 CHRISTINE GRAHAME (29/06/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive when it expects HM Treasury to come to a view on the implementation of planning-gain supplement in Scotland.

**S2W-27163 ANDREW ARBUCKLE (29/06/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive what action is being taken to reduce the time which it takes to process compulsory purchase orders referred to it by local authorities.

**S2W-27187 STEWART STEVENSON (30/06/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive how many new houses have been built in each constituency since 1999.

**S2W-27214 CHRISTINE GRAHAME (03/07/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive how many English-based registered charities have carried out fundraising in Scotland using the designation "UK national" but have not provided any service or support in Scotland in each year since 2001.

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## RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ANSWERS

**Q S2W-26915 BRIAN ADAM (19/06/06) LAND USE STUDIES RESEARCH**

**A** The Environment and Rural Development Department's (SEERAD) research strategy document Strategic Research for SEERAD 2005-2010 sets out the research to be funded by SEERAD through the commissioning of programmes of research. Work on environmental science and land use studies is included within the programmes. Research undertaken by SEERAD's non-departmental public bodies, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and its agencies including Fisheries Research Service also include aspects of environmental science and land use studies. A copy of the research strategy document can be found at:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/01/20526/49994](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/01/20526/49994).

Research to meet SEERAD's needs beyond 2010 will be determined through on-going review processes involving a wide range of stakeholders through advisory mechanisms including SEERAD's Strategic Science Advisory Panel. **ANSWERED BY RHONA BRANKIN (28/06/06)**

**Q S2W-26975 ALASDAIR MORGAN (21/06/06) SCOTTISH FORESTRY GRANTS**

**A** The eligibility for applications to the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) was set out in the guidance for applicants placed on the web. The SFGS is now, however, under review, in preparation for the introduction of the new Rural Development Plan next year. Details of the review can be seen on the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) web pages at [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland).

The intention had been to close the SFGS in August to allow development of the new grants, but FCS had to close it in April because the value of applications received was significantly in excess of the funding available. The FCS has, however, discussed with the Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor) which categories of applications should be given priority for processing. The FCS has written to applicants giving them full details.

Applications which will be given priority include those which are associated with ministerial commitments aimed at encouraging activity in particular policy areas. FCS will therefore look to approve schemes in the Locational Premium areas and those which form part of the Woods In and Around Towns Challenge Fund. Other examples are applications involving short rotation coppice, restocking associated with a long-term forest plan, and community/partnership participation.

To help to support the record level of forestry activity, we have provided record levels of funding for the next two years - £26 million and £28 million respectively. **ANSWERED BY RHONA BRANKIN (30/06/06)**

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## EVENTS

**SCOTTISH STONE LIAISON GROUP'S 'GLASGOW PROJECT' – LAUNCH OF RESULTS** This launch will take place at the City Chambers in Glasgow on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006 – limited spaces are still available. To book your place, contact Alan McKinney on **0131 448 0313**, [amckinney@support-services.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:amckinney@support-services.fsbusiness.co.uk)

**LEAD WORKSHOP** This workshop will take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006, at the Court of Session, Parliament Hall, Edinburgh. The workshop is being run by SPAB in Scotland, in conjunction with D Blake & Co, will have a

practical and technical emphasis and includes a site visit to D Blake & Co's workshop. For further information and to book a place, contact Devon DeCelles on **0131 557 1551 (office hours Tuesday, 10-5pm)**.

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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 Communities and Local Government (DCLG); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS); Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA). 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 Fiona Binning: **[fbinning@bef.s.org.uk](mailto:fbinning@bef.s.org.uk), 0131 556 5353**.