

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



An Opportunity to Improve How Planning Works!



The Scottish Government are consulting on a Planning Bill to reform the system. This consultation ends on 4 April 2017.

The consultation provides details of proposed changes and seeks your views on them.

Gordon Macdonald MSP noted, "Currently, developers have too great a say in where and when sites are built on. This consultation is an opportunity to create a planning system where local residents have a greater influence and the potential to share in the benefits."

An independent panel who reviewed the system heard from communities, developers, professional planners and a wide range of organisations with an interest in planning. The panel set out clear recommendations for change.

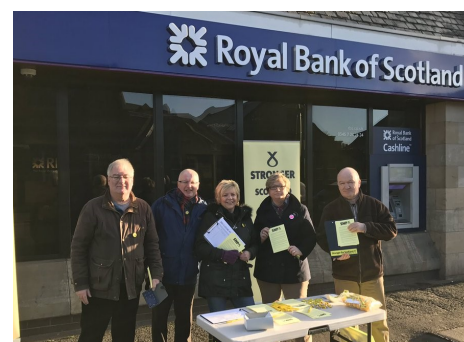
The proposed changes can be found here: -

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512753.pdf>

And the consultation can be found here: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/>

Gordon continued, "Planning policy has a long-term impact on our communities — on our health, wellbeing, sense of identity, prosperity, environment, and more often than not, on the congestion on our roads. I have campaigned in many areas of Edinburgh Pentlands against wrongly-placed and ill-thought-out housing developments — many times successfully, sometimes not. With a more robust planning policy, protecting open spaces and the Green Belt would be a lot easier. I would urge you to participate in the consultation."

RBS Branch Campaign



SNP branch members with Gordon Macdonald MSP, Joanna Cherry MP, and Cllr Cathy Fullerton were outside the Chesser Branch of RBS leafleting against its closure.

Gordon Macdonald MSP said, "For many, there is no substitute for face-to-face banking and we want RBS to reconsider these decisions.

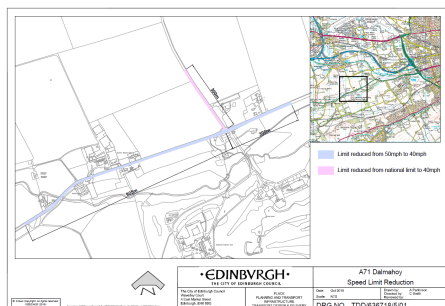
"A few years ago, my constituents were served by six RBS branches: Balerno, Heriot-Watt, Fairmilehead, Juniper Green, Colinton, and Chesser, but by this summer their presence will be non-existent!

"While there is a move to online banking, there is no justification for RBS to withdraw completely from the Edinburgh South West area.

"An extension of the mobile branch network should be the bare minimum that RBS should provide to serve those customers affected."

Out and About...

Hatton Mains Speed Reduction



At its meeting on 30 August 2016, the Council's Transport and Environment Committee approved a speed reduction from 50mph to 40mph and the installation of traffic signals at the A71/Dalmahoy Road junction.

Gordon Macdonald MSP has welcomed this saying, "There has been a long history of road collisions on the approaches to this junction and local residents have supported a speed reduction for quite some time."

"A petition in 2014 for the signalisation of this junction received 1,528 signatures in 2014 and I am pleased that Edinburgh Council have taken action."

A temporary safety measure involving vehicle-activated signs will be introduced as an interim scheme to address safety concerns.

The reduction of the speed limit is subject to a statutory legal process, and the proposals will likely be publicly advertised in the next three months. This will give any interested parties the opportunity to formally object to the proposed speed limit reduction.

Strict Liability Consultation for Football Clubs



The consultation will canvass the views of individuals and organisations across Scotland to gather their opinions on the introduction of Strict Liability.

Gordon Macdonald notes, "In a football context, strict liability means holding football clubs responsible for the negative behaviour of their supporters."

If you wish to submit your views on James's proposal visit: - www.parliament.scot/proposed-football-strict-liability-bill

MSP James Dornan has launched a public consultation to explore the possibility of introducing a Bill that will enforce Strict Liability onto all professional football clubs in Scotland. The deadline for comments is 17 March 2017.

Redford Barracks Blunder

Gordon Macdonald recently wrote a letter to defence minister Mark Lancaster objecting to the closure of Redford Barracks. Mr Lancaster responded in a letter that releasing MoD sites were opportunities for commercial use and regeneration, and added "My officials have been

in contact with the chief executive of Fife Council to consider the best possible future uses for the site." Gordon commented, "What is the UK Government's answer to closing down the barracks in Edinburgh? — write to a council in Fife. You couldn't make it up!"

Contact Details

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Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxgangs Library
5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands