

National Planning Policy Framework

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Summary of Action

Branches, district and regional groups are asked to note the attached analysis of the consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and to consider helping to influence the NPPF by: (i) writing to their MP highlighting our main concerns and asking them to raise the issues with the Minister, Greg Clark MP; and (ii) sending a representative to a seminar for volunteers at national office in September.

1. The Government consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 25 July. In response to the consultation we issued a press release (see www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/2392-radical-planning-shake-up-threatens-green-fields) which gained widespread national media coverage. We were also quoted in a piece written by The Times newspaper prior to the launch of the consultation.
2. The NPPF is a central part of the Government's planning reforms. We believe that the consultation draft presents a major threat to the countryside and we are asking our members and supporters to work with us to influence the final document.
3. We have prepared two briefings to help people understand the potential impact of the NPPF. These briefings are supported by an outline, provisional analysis of the draft NPPF, comparing key passages for CPRE to both existing planning policy and recent commitments made by either the governing parties or Ministers. The first briefing (at Annex 1 to this circular, with a more detailed table at Annex 3) summarises the analysis and sets out key areas of concern for CPRE and the second (at Annex 2) is intended to provide some helpful tips on meeting politicians. These are appended to this circular.
4. We strongly encourage CPRE local members and volunteers to meet, or if that's not possible write to, their MP. Please consider raising the points set out in Annex 1. You might also find the article on our website useful - see www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/2369-planning-system-under-attack. Please ask your MP to raise these concerns with the Minister, Greg Clark.

5. In addition, it is also likely to be particularly useful to hold similar meetings with, and make similar requests of, local councillors where possible. Given the key role the development of the NPPF has in the Government's localism agenda, Ministers are likely to place particular weight on the views of local and parish councillors.

6. We will also shortly be launching an e-action on our website but we know from MPs that face to face meetings and personalised letters will have the biggest impact. In addition to a model letter to your MP the e-action will enable people to submit a short response to the consultation.

7. We would also welcome any feedback and observations on points we may have missed.

Next steps

8. In response to the Government's reforms we will be running a major public facing campaign on planning over the coming months. In addition to responding formally to the consultation (see below), we also intend to support our key policy messages with opinion polling, parliamentary work, commissioning research on the benefits of using brownfield land for new development before greenfield, and a seminar for recognised national experts. In addition we are also fundraising for further national media and publicity activities.

9. CPRE's interests and concerns with the NPPF extend to a wide range of issues. In order to influence the development of the NPPF, we are likely to need examples of how national planning policy has worked on the ground, particularly in relation to the key points mentioned in our provisional analysis. We would welcome submissions by email and in writing.

10. In addition, we also intend to run a seminar at national office in September to gain examples from branches, as well as to give you an opportunity to discuss and input to our formal response to the consultation. If you would like to attend this seminar please contact Paul Miner, email paulm@cpre.org.uk, tel: 020 7981 2830 and indicate whether you would prefer to attend on either (i) Friday 9 September; or (ii) Wednesday 14 September. The seminar will be held on the most preferred date of the two.

11. In September the Government is holding four planning reform events in London on Wednesday 7 September 2011, Leeds on Thursday 8 September 2011, Birmingham on Tuesday 13 September 2011 and Bristol on Thursday 15 September 2011, respectively. These events will cover the National Planning Policy Framework along with other key elements of planning reform, such as Neighbourhood Planning. We would also encourage branches to attend these. To register an interest in attending one of these workshops please contact alan.scott@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

12. To give feedback on CPRE's work on the NPPF or for further information on the campaign, please contact Paul Miner, tel: 020 7981 2830 or email paulm@cpre.org.uk.