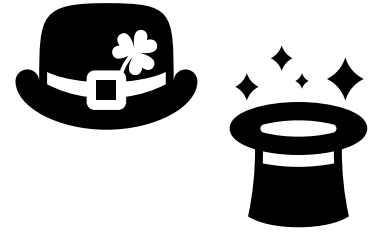


Jane Maggs

The new government's approach to planning and the scope for member societies to influence policy and development management

London Forum AGM
17th October 2024

Who am I?



Vice Chair, Southgate District Civic Voice

Founded in 1962

Area of interest old Southgate Municipal Borough, which became part of LB Enfield



Trustee, Civic Voice

The national charity for the civic movement in England



Building a Civic Movement

1846 Sid Vale Association founded

1957 Civic Trust founded

1967 Civic Amenities Act

Introduced the concept of conservation areas

1970 Peak of groups registered with Civic Trust - c1300

2009 Civic Trust administration

2010 Civic Voice launched to maintain a national voice

2024 240 member societies

17 London member societies



What about the future?

University of Reading research in February 2022

Q. What do you think are the three most significant risks facing the Civic Movement for the next three years?

Loss of members	27%
Government policy/reform	26%
Diminishing relevance	25%
Less effective interactions with Local Authorities	14%



Then this happened!

Thursday 4 July 2024



Government Announcements

*'We will immediately update the **National Planning Policy Framework**... including mandatory housing targets... tough action to ensure up-to-date local plans... new mechanism for cross-boundary strategic places'*

'Britain is hampered by a planning regime that mean we struggle to build the housing the country needs'

'The current planning regime acts as a major brake on economic growth'

Rachel Reeves Speech on 8th July
Consultation launched on 30th July by Deputy Prime Minister



With a 'War on the NIMBY'!



Where Rachel Reeves is about to give Nimbys the biggest shock

Chancellor is gearing up for a brawl as she lays groundwork for Labour's plan to build 1.5m homes over the next five years

By Melissa Lawford and Meike Eijsberg, DATA JOURNALIST, LONDON
8 July 2024 - 5:08pm



Can Rachel Reeves defeat the Nimbys?

Labour must be prepared for some unpalatable compromises if it intends to achieve real results.

By Will Dunn



We will overcome the NIMBYs new Housing Minister tells BBC

Matthew Pennycook, the Labour Government's new Housing Minister, confirms that his party wants to build "large scale communities", as it drives towards its target of 1.5 million new homes.

David Callaghan

11th Jul 2024

0

426

1 minute read

Share



'In Bristol we are facing the accusation, including in the press this spring, that the civic society is an inherently NIMBY organisation.'
Peter Ellis, Bristol Civic Society

'We are not NIMBY's ... We just think about the long-term & not just short-term political cycle. Developers are private businesses focus on profit, who just happen to build houses. Of course they don't want people questioning what they do.'

Mark F, New Folkestone Society

What has Civic Voice done?

Engaged with MHCLG and MPs

In their 2nd response MHCLG stated:

'We recognise the important role that civic societies play in promoting the interests of local communities and I would like to assure you that community involvement in place-making is at the heart of the planning system.'

'We would welcome a response from Civic Voice to the consultation.'



What has Civic Voice done?

Surveyed our members to gain insights on proposals

Held roundtable discussions with civic societies

Briefings with civic societies

Meetings of the Regional Forum

Feedback gathered used to:

- inform further discussion on NPPF
- reflect the concerns and perspectives of civic societies



What has Civic Voice done?

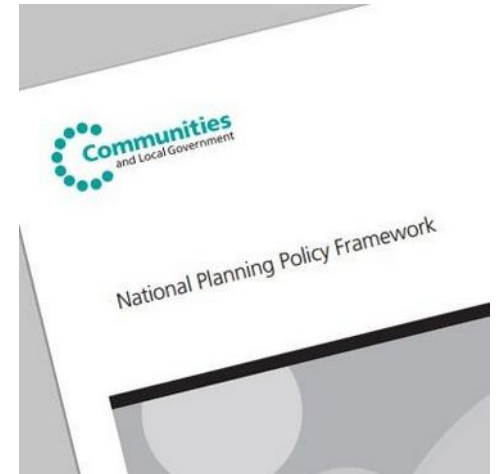
Created an expert panel for the NPPF Consultation

To help with detailed consultation response & advice

Chaired by Margaret Hollins, a Civic Voice Trustee

Included expertise in:

- Housing & urban planning – including academic professionals
- Planning expertise – including retired planning inspector, former Head of Planning
- Policy & governance – including former policy advisor at MHCLG
- High streets & town centres – members sit on High Street Task Force board
- Transport & heritage – including professor of transport & heritage campaigners



What has Civic Voice done?

Held 'In Conversation' on topics related to our discussions

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 3 rd September | Clive Betts MP |
| 9 th September | Sam Stafford – House Builders Federation (HBF) |
| 2nd October | Adam Cliff - Empty Homes Network |
| 4th November | Catriona Riddell – planning consultant
Strategic Planning Uncovered: What might be the role for communities in a new strategic planning system? |
| 14th November | Elisabeth Lewis - Trafford's new Design Code - A Government Pathfinder |
| 26th November | Mike Saunders – Commonplace
Brownfield urban regeneration: how to deliver more growth, homes and jobs with the support of communities |



NPPF consultation

How was our response drafted?

Civic Voice collected input through:

Surveys; briefings; webinars; discussions

Ensuring that the views of local communities were heard

In total:

7 events were held - 202 individuals attended 1 or more events

405 responses through an online survey

366 detailed emails from individuals, civic societies & other community organisations

NPPF Response – key points

Housing Affordability:

Just increasing housing targets may not result in more homes being built.

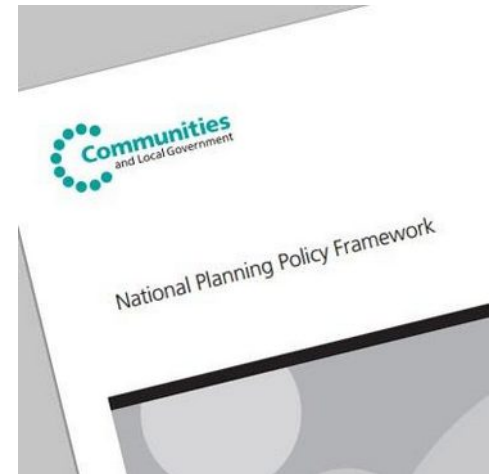
Without targeted reforms, the private sector continue to prioritise high-end developments.

Calling for stronger public sector involvement.

Community Involvement:

Urged strengthening of Statements of Community Involvement.

Public engagement must be an ongoing process at every stage of development to rebuild trust and ensure local voices are not just heard but acted upon.



NPPF Response – key points

Strategic Planning:

Supports enhanced strategic planning at sub-regional levels, to address complex housing and infrastructure issues.

Local housing markets should be assessed by regional bodies, with findings used to guide public investment programmes.

Net Zero and VAT Reform:

Highlighted the urgent need for planning policy to support net zero ambitions. Building new homes must go hand in hand with sustainability goals.

Reform the VAT system to incentivise retrofitting and refurbishment of existing homes.



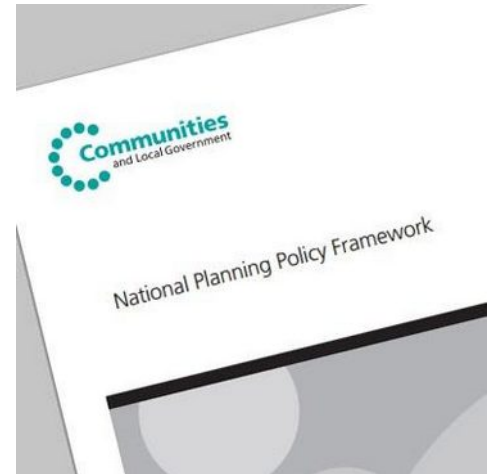
NPPF Response – key points

Ian Harvey, Executive Director of Civic Voice:

'The current housing crisis isn't just about numbers—it's about ensuring that the homes being built are genuinely affordable and meet the needs of the people who need them.'

'We cannot solve the affordable housing crisis without stronger public sector leadership and viewing communities as partners in these national challenges.'

'Communities should be at the centre of decision-making, not sidelined.'



What next?

Next round of discussions to respond to current consultations on:

Grey belt vs green belt
Brownfield sites

'In Conversations' will continue

Meetings of Regional Forum & Expert Panel

Design awards - can we use them to avoid the NIMBY label?

Civic Update to members with latest news & how to get involved

Civic Voice AGM on 7th December at the Foundling Museum



Image removed

How do we influence policy?

The new government's approach to planning and the scope for member societies to influence policy and development management

Locally

Strengthen our societies
Networking and communicating with other societies
Engage with Councillors, council officers & your MP

Regionally

Attend London Forum events & give your views

Nationally

Civic Voice will continue to talk to MHCLG
Attend Civic Voice roundtables, talks, In Conversation events & give your views
Civic Voice will continue to respond to consultations
Read Civic Update

[Come to Civic Voice AGM on 7th December](#)

How do we influence policy?

The new government's approach to planning and the scope for member societies to influence policy and development management

Local issues are guided by national legislation

So

'We are stronger together than we are alone'

Walter Payton



Thank you for listening!