

Midlothian Federation of Community Councils



**Midlothian Planning Seminar
Saturday 5th May - 09:30 - 15:45
Penicuik Town Hall
33 High St, Penicuik EH26 8HS**

09:30 - Registration - tea/coffee will be available.

09:50 - Opening Remarks - Brief overview of agenda and objectives. Introduction of presenters, panelists & representatives of participating organisations.

10:00 - Session 1: How does the Planning System Actually Work?

- We will use a local case study to describe each step in the process, identifying the points at which local communities can engage and influence. Presenter from the Community (TBA) - 20 minutes presentation.
- We will describe the criteria that Planning Officers have to apply and explain what makes an effective comment or objection. Invited Presenter: Member of Midlothian Council Planning Team - 20 minutes presentation.
- 20 minutes Q&A.

11:00 - Break

11:20 - Session 2: How is the Local Development Plan produced and how is it used in practice?

Presentation by PAS (formerly Planning Aid Scotland) 30 minutes presentation; 15 minutes Q&A.

12:05 - Lunch Break

13:00 Session 3: Bringing Community Planning and everyday Development Planning Processes into alignment.

- The Community Planning system brings together public, private and third sector bodies to align resources to improve the lives of people living in Midlothian. But the planning system used by developers and residents to obtain planning permissions is not linked to Community Planning and can deliver results that conflict with agreed Community Plan aims. How can we change the system so that development planning is more in line with Community Planning objectives?
- Invited Presenter: TBA. 20 minutes presentation.
- 20 minutes Q&A.

14:00 - Break

14:20 Session 4: **How can we make the Planning System effective and responsive to Community needs?**

- Part1: Review of the current Planning System and proposals in the Planning (Scotland) Bill, highlighting the ways in which this fails to empower communities. Invited Presenter: Planning Democracy. 20 minutes presentation
- Part 2: Overview of the weaknesses of the Midlothian Planning Portal and how residents interact with the local planning system. Community Presenter: TBA. 20 minutes presentation.
- Part 3: "Question Time" panel. Chaired by a Community Representative or Angus Hardie from Scottish Community Alliance. Questions for the panel will be collected prior to the seminar and all through the event. Up to 30 - 40 minutes panel.

15:30 - 15:45 - Close and Thank You's