



South Seeds Engagements

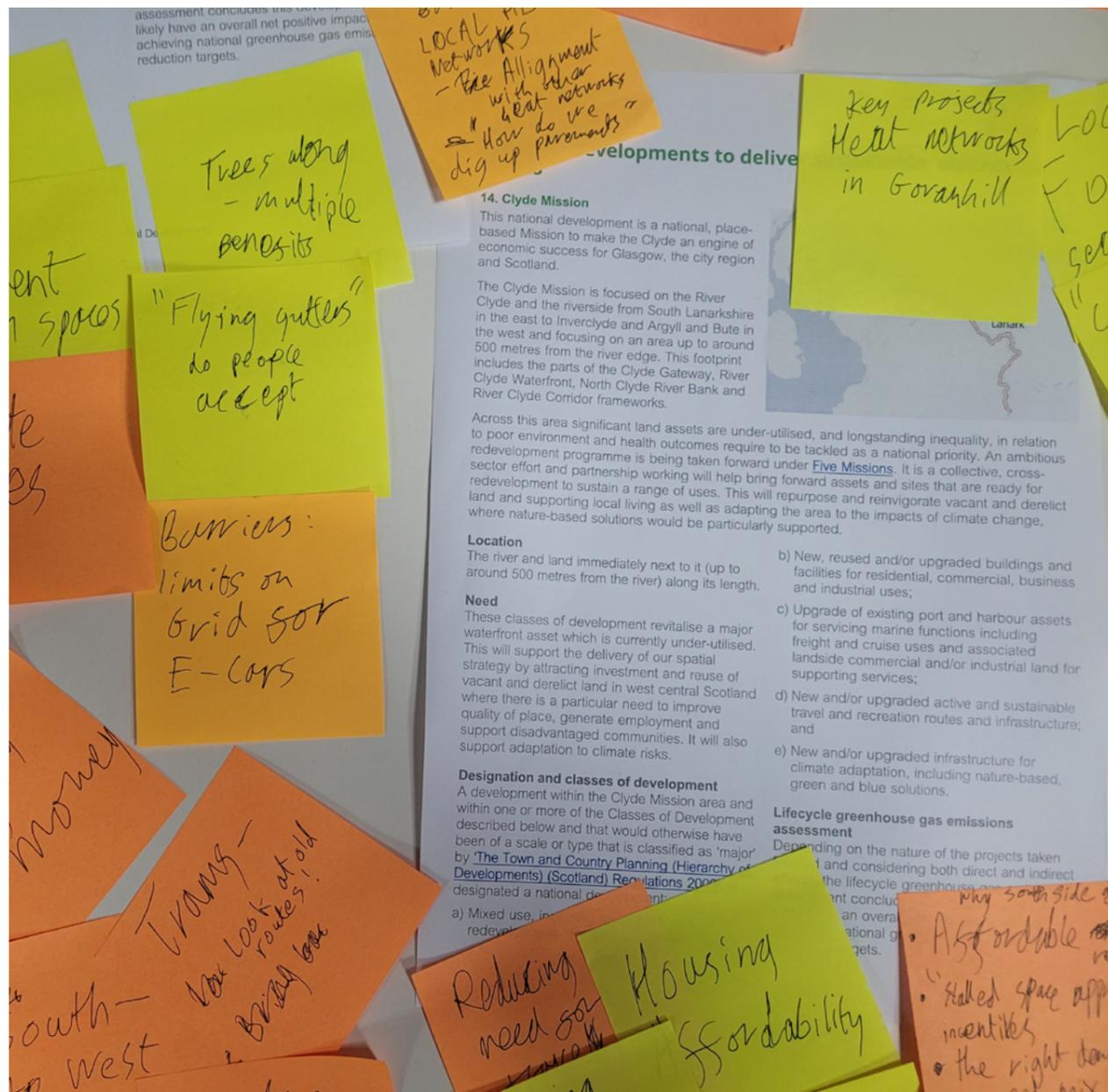
National Planning

Framework 4

Consultation: A Glasgow Southside Response



Executive Summary



Community responses to the proposed national developments planned for the Greater Glasgow area.

In March 2022, South Seeds gathered together representatives of 6 community groups on the Southside of Glasgow to facilitate a discussion around how the challenges faced here can be met in the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4).

We recognise the importance of taking a place-based approach to policy and the need to find local responses to ensure Scotland meets its Net Zero targets by 2045.

The following key recommendations were made:

- 1. Community groups can play a crucial role in shaping places:** Longer funding programme cycles and greater certainty around funding streams would allow for long-term planning for communities who can in turn better resource themselves.
- 2. 20 minute neighbourhood should be a priority for Scotland:** The revitalisation of the high streets on Glasgow's southside are thanks in part to its walkability and dense but liveable retail and residential units. Regeneration of areas around the Clyde should consider the need for the right kind of density in its planning.
- 3. Retrofitting and community infrastructure:** In order to address the climate emergency, priority across the built environment should be given to projects that retrofit-first. Feeding in the community's experience to infrastructure projects can make for better planned local heat networks and renewable energy projects.
- 4. Public transport:** National Developments should address south to west and south to east severance across the city. Elsewhere provision for Demand Responsive Transport infrastructure written into the Use Classes would demonstrate the benefits of some untested routes.

- 5. Urban Drainage:** Tree planting is great for urban drainage and something the community is keen to see on city streets. There are possibilities to improve backcourt drainage which could be explored. Backcourts could be improved in the same way the Avenues project has tackled both the drainage and the requirements from a city scape.

Many participants felt the scale of the consultation made meaningful responses harder. This led to less chance for wider community buy-in. Consultations around Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Place Plans could be potential avenues for more meaningful and wider engagement

“Regeneration of areas around the Clyde should consider the need for the right kind of density in its planning”

Workshop Participant

Our consultation response was published on the NPF4 portal and below . The consultation response focuses on wider priorities for the community and addressed the deliverability and ambition of NPF4. The participants appreciate the ambition and scope of the document in guiding Scotland's net zero goals.

We propose the findings presented here are taken into consideration during the final stages of scrutiny around NPF4 toward the summer of 2022. These conclusions should add to conversations regarding the delivery and the implementation of cascading planning policies. These include the Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Place Plans.

Background

South Seeds has a long history in galvanising Glasgow's southside around policy matters such as active travel, energy efficiency, food security, climate change and retrofitting. Formed in 2011, we have helped our local community lead more sustainable lives through a range of projects from a local tool library and community gardens through to an energy advice and research into renewable heat and energy efficiency.

As part of our continuing conversation with the community in Govanhill and Pollokshields, we have acted as a consultee and facilitator on place and policymaking. Highlights of this include local consultations on [Glasgow South Urban Development Framework](#), community engagement around [Queen's Park Recreation Ground Changing Rooms](#), [The Energy Snapshot Report into the local area's built form and energy use](#), and much more.



Raised beds in a Govanhill back tenement court, maintained by South Seeds.

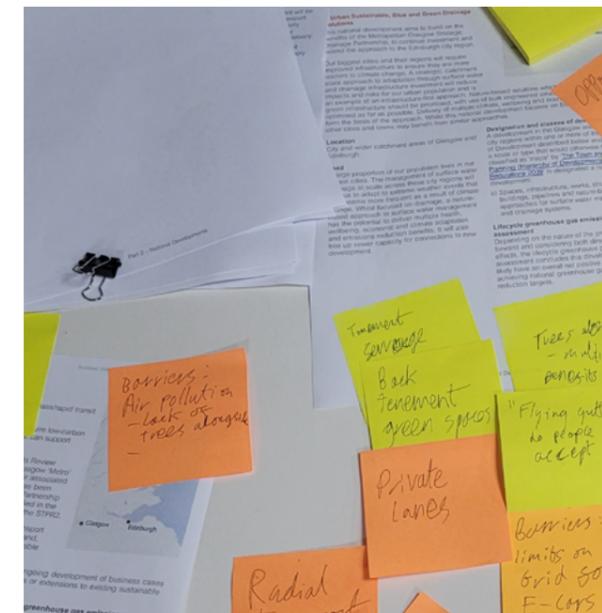
Workshop Exercises

South Seeds held an in person workshop over two hours focussed around national policy priorities and the proposed national developments for Glasgow. The policies commented on included responses to the 'sustainable places' spatial themes, 20 minute neighbourhood and community wealth building. The national developments discussed included Clyde Mission, Urban Mass Rapid Transit Networks and Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions.

Participants discussed their priorities for a net zero future and how they believed we would get there before applying the learning here to the proposed national developments. Our response to Scottish Government answered six of the consultation questions on the consultation portal. All of our answers tried to apply a local perspective.

“A cosy, informative and well-led consultation. [I left the event with] lots of things to think about.”

Workshop Participant



Participants giving their views on policy matters and national developments exhibited in NPF4, South Seeds Offices



Summary of Responses

Central Urban Transformation

Discussing Glasgow more generally, praise was given for its ambition and resilience. The following points emerged:

- Green spaces: clarity of land ownership of land prevents better stewardship of some local areas. Ambiguity over land ownership was a reoccurring theme across all themes and it was seen as a barrier to better development.
- Heat networks and the energy crisis: Local residents were seen as increasingly vulnerable to the energy crisis, given the historic nature of the areas built form.
- Active travel and public transport : More priority should be given to circular routes, especially from South to West, as well as Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Food security: Decentralising food security and a push towards a circular economy were valued as measures that held multiple benefits; reducing poverty and air pollution while beautifying the area.

National Developments

Generally, participants felt the developments lacked enough specificity to the local areas but understood that regional spatial strategies should provide this context. Plain English explanations for communities should be given to ensure a better understanding of the importance of national developments to themselves.

Finally, Local Place Plans were seen as a viable way for aligning national development resources with previous data on a place, emerging priorities and community buy-in on an area.

The policy around these plans however would need 'bite' to work.

Our workshop focussed on three national developments: Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions; Urban Mass Rapid Transit Networks and Clyde Mission

Clyde Mission

Attendees felt that Glasgow's Southside would be a useful case study for the right level of density needed to redevelop a space. Smaller and more flexible commercial unit sizes were invaluable for revitalising an area. However, service delivery such as waste or sewage management should be more centrally managed than is the norm in other commercial and residential districts to avoid cluttered streets.

Participants felt priority should be given for energy efficient retrofitting projects along the Clyde waterfront. This with a centrally run service delivery was seen as preserving the stewardship of an area.

Urban Mass Rapid Transit Networks

Attendees felt that Glasgow suffers from poor public transport and active travel circular routes (south to west and south to east), which serves to sever the south from key parts of the city. Despite the approval of a tram network, more reliable circular bus routes which allow for low cost 'trip chaining' were preferred.



Aside from the barriers created by several unaligned bus companies, improvements could be made by prioritising circular routes, providing provision for Demand Responsive Transport infrastructure in use classes. More connections to leisure points and certain commuter belt settlements could reduce car dependency across the city too.

Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions

Attendees felt the largest barrier to improving local drainage provision through blue-green infrastructure was due to the lack of clarity around ownership of certain vacant greenspaces. This prevented many ground-up solutions.

Elsewhere, simple solutions were preferred, such as rethinking the uses for 'grey water' through rain gardens, more tree planting and incentives for green-roofs. Scottish Water was seen as a potential actor who could take a lead on such matters.

National Policy: Sustainable places

After an exercise around collective priorities, discussion on policy centred on sustainability. Participants discussed the approach around net zero places and the 20 minute neighbourhood, climate change and nature recovery; and community wealth building.

20 Minute Neighbourhood

The notion of 20 minute neighbourhood concept was supported as a net zero approach to the build environment. However, net zero approaches need to be fair ('work for everyone'), respect communities' economic, social, and cultural rights.

Elsewhere, giving space and adaptability for technological solutions in design, a circular economy approach and prioritising retrofit are important measures for a successful net zero place.

We proposed that all development should enable a 20 minute neighbourhood and more preference for measures that retrofit over redevelop should be given. Elsewhere we should consider planning and land policy conditions that give more certainty to community-led or collaborative developments (i.e., heat and energy networks). Community groups need notification around maintenance schedules to increase the possibility of joint working on energy networks.

Community Wealth Building

The understood definition of community wealth building was understood, however it was felt a consistent definition should be added to the glossary to give more weight to the term. Recent approaches of nationalising rail and ferry transport should act as a case study for further municipal approaches to service delivery.

Conclusion

The national developments discussed were very much welcomed. However, it was not clear how community led organisations could feed into and shape these developments. This is partly due to the lack of detail at this stage. Many saw Local Place Plans as an opportunity to feed in to Scottish Government spatial policy.

Community-led groups have lots of experience and information about local spatial and strategic thinking. Participants felt that if longer term funding was built into their own programme cycles, then it would be easier to contribute to national policy objectives. More avenues for meaningful participation rather than consultation would be welcomed.

Elsewhere, key priorities for the city emerged. These, mentioned above, were: heat networks, circular active travel and public transport routes, enhanced green spaces, small unit commercial spaces and, finally, urban food spaces. The message that **community groups can play a crucial role in shaping places**, was clear. Funding community-led organisations is not only about funding the delivery of community-led services but funding a mechanism for community knowledge and experience to be fed in to policy development.

In terms of next steps, South Seeds aims to synthesise this report with other local engagements, insights and reporting. As the process for local place plans begin, South Seeds aims to continue to act as a space for discussion around place going forward.

List of Attendees

Our attendees included 7 people from 6 organisations across Southside of Glasgow. These were: Planning Aid for Scotland, South Seeds, Govanhill Baths, Strathbungo Community Council, My Shawlands BID and Bike for Good.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Planning Aid for Scotland, Lucy Gillie, Manasa Kappadi, Tim Moss and Keith Winter for their facilitation work on the event.

Special thanks to our facilitators and our support from Planning Aid for Scotland.

Produced by South Seeds on behalf of the Southside of Glasgow community groups present.

Contact Us

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Participants identifying and discussing the links between policy themes and the goals of the national developments. Queen's Park in Glasgow Southside, Queen's Park Station, and the motorway severance affecting the south of Glasgow.

