



Local Cheats making a mockery of the Planning process!

In my near-11 years as a Councillor serving the good people of Avondale, I've only witnessed two examples of where South Lanarkshire Council enforced a structure to be taken down after no planning consent was applied for (or granted). It however may come as a shock to those reading this article, that there are far too many cases across Avondale every year, where buildings are erected with absolutely no planning official approval at all. As a local Councillor what frustrates me even more is the planning law in Scotland is in such a mess, that SLC are left powerless to deal with these cheats; who are making a complete mockery of the planning process and have absolutely no regard for this community!

There are many examples of where genuine mistakes are made and therefore: where private individuals are either badly advised or are simply unaware of the law surrounding the planning process. However, there are also a few repeat offenders; a few cheats living in this community who simply flaunt the rules and regulations building what they like where they like. The Council's hands are then tied when retrospective planning applications are finally submitted and these take months to go through the process, leaving this rural ward scarred until all appeals are exhausted and the council can finally take enforcement orders to have these illegal buildings torn down.

There are changes afoot within the Scottish planning process and public consultations will no doubt continue for some time to come but I'd like to pass a message to those planning cheats in our community: 'your illegal activities will not be tolerated and I will work as hard as I can with the Council, the police and environmental service; calling for as many retrospective planning applications to be refused,' and maybe after these cheats lose a few-hundred-thousand-pounds, they'll finally get the message: ***Planning laws are there for a reason!***

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