

**MOTION PROPOSED TO AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2018**

**NO AMENDMENT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO THIS MOTION**

## Planning Appeals Made Closer to Home

**Proposed by: Wrexham and Clwyd South Liberal Democrats**

Conference notes;

1. Many planning applications, especially large proposed housing developments meet with strong local opposition.
2. Such opposition can exist in the form of local groups who lead strong campaigns to stop such contentious developments.
3. The strength of opposition often leads to Local Authority Planning Committees voting to refuse planning permission for such developments.
4. Applicants in most cases submit appeals to the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate in the hope of overturning the Local Authority`s decision.
5. Following a review or hearing by an appointed Planning Inspector a recommendation may be made to uphold or overturn the original decision made by the Local Authority Planning Committee.
6. A decision to overturn the original ruling, depending on its magnitude, will be made by either the nominated Planning Inspector or it will be referred to the relevant Welsh Government Minister for them to make the final decision.

Conference believes that;

1. Appeals that see local decisions overturned by unelected officials or central government damages the public`s confidence in democracy.
2. Decisions that primarily affect local people should be made locally.
3. Damaging the public`s confidence in democracy can potentially have dangerous consequences if not addressed.

Conference calls for;

1. Decisions to uphold or overturn Local Authority Planning Committee judgements be removed from the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate and from Welsh Government Ministers.
2. All Planning Appeals decisions to be heard by newly formed Local Authority Planning Appeals Committees.
3. The Planning Appeals Committee to comprise of elected members from that Local Authority, except for those who are either members of the initial Planning Committee or are members of the Executive.
4. Independent Planning Inspectors to still oversee appeals and to put forward their recommendation reports to the Planning Appeals Committee.
5. Objectors to planning applications to have the right to submit their objections to the Planning Inspector and where applicable address their objections to the Planning Appeals Committee (the same way they can do this already with existing Local Authority Planning Committees).
6. The decision of the Planning Appeals Committee to be final (subject to any potential judicial review by an applicant/appellant).