

You may know what an architect does but are you aware of the role of planners in shaping our places and communities?

Have you ever looked at a place or building and asked why it is how it is?

If you have, then you may know that **planners** were involved! In Britain, we have a **planning system** that **manages** what should change, what should stay the same, and protects our heritage.

Why do we have a Planning System?

With **industrialisation**, British towns and cities grew rapidly in the C19th. Slum housing and factories were packed closely together with terrible air quality, no sanitation and poor public health. These were not planned cities

How did the planning system start?

In 1945 after World War 2, there were over a million bomb-damaged houses. The government wanted a new **public service** to take decisions about land use and **create better places**. In 1947, a Planning Act was passed. In the next 20 years there was a huge programme of building new homes and even whole new towns such as, East Kilbride, Livingston and Cumbernauld.

What is the role of planning today?

Living conditions have of course improved a lot since 1947, but the role of planning has widened to address **climate change**, **sustainability** and **participation**. Also, planning is not just about homes - it also has to make decisions about supermarkets, wind farms, new roads, schools, waste facilities, recycling plants, and lots more.

Key fact: Planning is a public service rooted in improving health, addressing inequality, and making better places for people (“placemaking”).



What do planners actually do?

Planners make tough decisions about future land uses - for example:

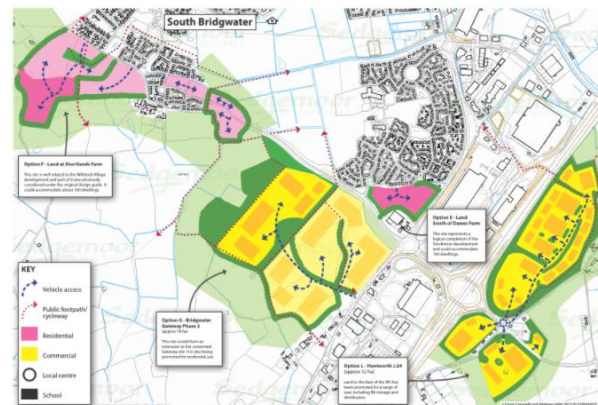
- Building new homes on the greenbelt
- Where to site wind farms/renewables
- Preventing flooding
- Promoting walking and cycling
- Re-using brownfield sites
- Promoting new business investment
- Allowing people to extend their home
- Sustainable development



The planning system has three main parts:

Planning for the Future

Local authorities produce **Local Development Plans (LDPs)** which map out where new homes, shops, roads and schools will go, and which areas should be protected. Planners must **consult** everyone when they prepare the LDP. It must promote **sustainable development**.



Planning Applications

You must apply for **planning permission** to build any new development. This means sending plans and information to the local authority. Their planners have to look at all of this, listen to different opinions, and make a **balanced decision**.

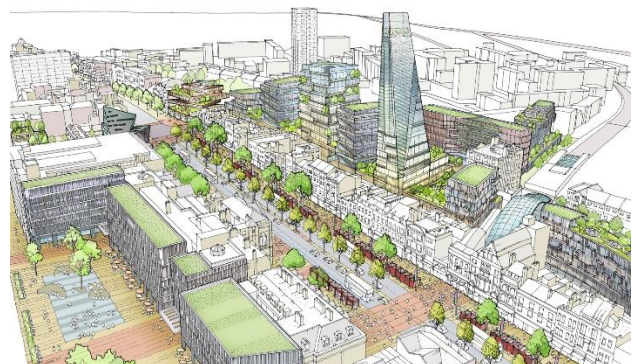


Enforcement

Enforcement happens is when something has been done without planning permission and planners have to take appropriate action.

Different types of planner roles

Most planners work for local authorities or for private developers or landowners (such as supermarkets, homebuilders).



Key Fact:

Planners must listen to different views, negotiate, and judge what is best for society as a whole.