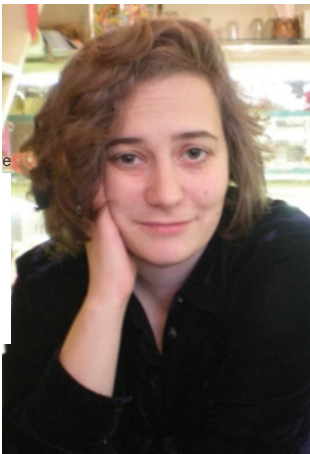


Planning process compromised, says report

28 March 2013 | By Mark Wilding



Spinwatch laments “revolving door” between council employees and developers



Anna MintonJournalist and author

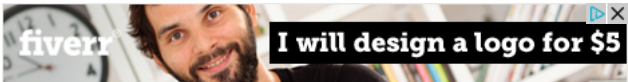
The planning process for major projects in the UK is characterised by “intimidation, bullying and conflicts of interest”, according to a report published by campaign group Spinwatch.

Scaring the Living Daylights out of People was produced by author and journalist Anna Minton, who cited projects including the redevelopment of the Heygate and Carpenters estates in London as examples of “sham” consultation exercises.

The report calls for a “redefinition of the public interest in planning, which places far greater account on social value”. A register of lobby groups should also be compiled to improve transparency in the planning process, it said.

Southwark Council came in for criticism over what was described as a “revolving door” between council employees, elected representatives, developers and lobbyists involved in the Heygate Estate project.

Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration at Southwark, said: “This report covers old ground going back many years. With any regeneration of this size there will inevitably be some people who are unhappy with the proposals but the process has been totally transparent.”




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