

Housing – A Critical Perspective.

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: A passion for place: neighbourhood planning and community attitudes to house-building.

2. Format: Written paper

3. Author(s) Name: Dr. Quintin Bradley

4. University or Company Affiliation: Leeds Beckett University

5. Abstract (300 words):

State strategies of localism have promoted place identity and place attachment as mechanisms to overcome community resistance to house-building. This populist appeal to a passion for place may conflict with the model of liberalised housing growth fostered by state interventions in spatial policy. Place attachment is firmly associated with feelings of collective efficacy and the protests of communities against economic development. In attempting to harness these passions to engage communities in acceptance of new house-building, the policy of neighbourhood planning introduced in England from 2011 was innovative and experimental. It devolved limited powers to communities to shape development in their neighbourhood in the anticipation that this would secure their compliance with a pro-growth agenda and increase the number of sites allocated for housing. The aim of this paper is to explore how a passion for place was expressed in neighbourhood planning and to chart the impact of narratives of place on community support for house-building. It draws on the body of housing policy developed across England by neighbourhoods since 2011 and on fieldwork research with a national sample of 50 neighbourhood plans carried out between 2013 and 2015. The paper argues that the mobilization of place attachment and place identity in

neighbourhood planning created opportunities for communities to advance new socially and environmentally sustainable housing solutions that conflicted with the market model of house-building. This, in turn, unsettled the depiction of citizens' groups as protectionist and opposed to all economic growth and demonstrated the power of place to generate more democratic inclusion in the politics of the home. The paper concludes that the passions of place might point the way to new approaches to housing supply that engage communities in needs assessment, planning, design and delivery.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

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Dr. Quintin Bradley is a Senior Lecturer in Planning and Housing, and leads post-graduate study in planning, housing and regeneration at the School of Built Environment & Engineering, Leeds Beckett University. He is active in research in the fields of housing studies, community engagement, and social policy. Quintin's PhD was a study of the English tenants' movement and its impact on social housing policy, a research project that combined social movement theory with housing studies and was based on significant community research. His work has been published in peer reviewed international journals and he has contributed a monograph on the tenants' movement published by Routledge in 2014. He continues to pursue research into housing campaigns, community economies, and social movements and is currently leading a research project examining the democratic practices and changes in governance arising from neighbourhood planning. As a practitioner he has extensive experience in community involvement and has worked for resident-led organisations, as well as local housing authorities and housing associations. He has been active in campaigns and social movements and has a background as an investigative journalist.