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Anna Soubry MP

working hard for Broxtowe

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E-newsletter | January 13 2014

Hello again,

Broxtowe Borough Council has voted in favour of a minimum of 500 houses on Green Belt land at Toton. This very bad decision comes on the day the Secretary of State for Transport visited Broxtowe to see the planned HS2 station site at Toton - right by the land now designated for housing development.

Labour and Lib Dem Councillors (the Council's ruling group) ignored considerable local opposition and there are now real concerns that the decision will scupper plans to build the East Midlands hub at Toton Sidings.



Patrick McLoughlin started the day at Strelley Hall and my thanks to the owners for their kindness in providing us with a number of rooms.

It was a first - a ministerial "surgery" with more than a dozen constituents whose property will or may be affected by the planned HS2 route through Strelley Village, Trowell and Nuthall.

Many more people met senior members of the HS2 for individual advice and consultations.

My thanks to everyone who attended; I hope they found it a valuable experience with a Secretary of State in listening" mode.

Partrick then saw the Toton site from both the road and from further down the track. I

explained the Council's plans for hundreds of homes which will impact on links from the tram to the Hub and access to the A52.

I will inform him of this evening's decision and my concerns that Broxtowe will allow many more than 500 houses and have no real plan as to how to take proper and full economic advantage of HS2 at Toton.

This is a golden opportunity for us all and I fear it will be squandered.

It was somewhat bizarre tonight to see Labour Councillors arguing for more homes and then voting for hundreds of three and four bedroom executive houses to allow people to commute to Sheffield. There are no starter homes planned for first time buyers, though there is a chunk of rented "social housing". The Lib Dems forgot the Coalition's stated policy that Green Belt land remains specially protected and should not be developed save for exceptional circumstances.

The fight to save Toton's Green Belt from hundreds of houses is not over.

I will renew my call on the Inspector to re open the inquiry to consider Toton properly and to include how we can take full economic advantage of HS2 at the Sidings.

As ever,
Anna

As promised I spoke to Patrick McLoughlin about the adverse affects of the planned open cast mine at Shortwood on our roads. I formally handed over a letter on the subject and will let you know his response.

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