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Chetwynd Barracks: the future - your community



Anna Soubry MP
Working hard for Broxtowe

23 May 2016

Hundreds have their say

Almost 250 residents packed in to a public meeting about the plans to close Chetwynd Barracks and sell the land for 800 houses. My thanks to everyone who attended and our sincere apologies that we didn't secure a bigger more comfortable room. Future public meetings will be held in a larger room with microphones and speakers.



180 people have volunteered to take part in a Neighbourhood Forum and the first meeting will be on **Wednesday June 8 at 7.30pm at The Village** (more details below).

I have secured a meeting a week later with the Defence Minister and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) - the MOD's organisation which will handle the sale and disposal of the land.

I will also meet the Commanding Officer of Chetwynd Barracks, next week. I have taken up a number of particular matters raised by soldiers based at Chetwynd with the MOD.

I believe the overwhelming majority of people at the meeting are sad to see the Army leave Chetwynd Barracks and some asked if we could campaign to change the decision. Whilst I think many people would prefer the Army to stay these decisions are not taken lightly and are based on the operational needs of our Armed Forces. There was widespread concern and some anger at the prospect of 800 homes on the Barracks site especially given the outline planning permission for 500 houses on the Green Belt land off Stapleford Lane. An assessment some time ago said there was enough room at the Barracks for over 1500 houses so we need to know what the MOD/DIO plans for the entire site. I am certainly of the view the remaining land should be handed over to the people as a small country park.

I believe we all agreed that the areas infrastructure is already at breaking point with everyone of the view the amount of traffic on Stapleford Lane is intolerably high, there are insufficient school places and growing pressure on other services.

We agreed we want to keep the monuments to those killed in action and to commemorate the workers killed in the 1918 munitions factory explosion.

The MOD has indicated to me there may be some uncertainty as to the future of the Reserves Centre on the site. I will of course raise this with the MOD/DIO when we meet.

Some specific questions raised at the meeting; Is Chetwynd House listed? Broxtowe Borough Council confirm it is not.

What trees have Tree Protection Orders? The woodland (Hobgoblin Wood) has a group TPO.



Neighbourhood Forum - Weds June 8

To make sure there is better control of planning and to ensure it meets the needs of everyone in Toton, Chilwell Meadows and Chilwell West, local residents can and should take the lead. It is your community and you should be at the heart of its future plans.

If we are to get the infrastructure, the new schools, better services and more green open spaces, we need a Neighbourhood Plan devised by residents. The first step is the creation of a Neighbourhood Forum.

There is a meeting on **Wednesday June 6 at 7.30 pm at The Village** for anyone who wants to be involved in a Neighbourhood Forum. I hope you will be able to attend.- for those who can't I will provide a summary of the meeting via this special email newsletter. Please don't think you will be excluded from the Forum in the future if you can't make the first meeting. The meeting is organised by Toton and Chilwell Meadows Borough Councillors (Mia Kee, Halimah Khaled and Steph Kerry) along with Councillors from Chilwell West. Your Councillors, officials from the Borough Council and I are all willing and able to assist the Neighbourhood Forum and the compilation of a Neighbourhood Plan but the lead has to come from at least 21 local residents!

[***Find out more about neighbourhood forums >>***](#)

[***Find out more about neighbourhood planning >>***](#)



Toton's Green Belt - can you help?

As you know the Borough Council has given outline planning permission for up to 500 houses on the Green Belt land between Stapleford Lane and Toton Sidings. The leader of Broxtowe Borough Council explained there was little the Council could do but support the application which has been considerably improved on the original.

The land is owned by a Nottingham Church, Heart Church, and I will be writing to them to ask them to consider reducing the number of houses on the site. As you know I am a supporter of HS2 and the creation of a world class business park by the Sidings to take full advantage of HS2 when it comes. What I am opposed to are hundreds of houses on the site and am seeking to persuade Heart Church to build fewer. I am told Heart Church are hugely supportive of communities but it may be they are in a deal with the developers that precludes them from changing the plan.

Please will you write or email Heart and explain why you value the fields that make up what's left of Toton's Green Belt? Please write to them at Heart Church,

104-114 Talbot Street, Nottingham NG1 5GL or email them at hello@heartchurch.co.uk



Thursday 2 June

EU Debate - In V Out

Get the facts, hear the arguments and join in the debate

At 6pm 'til 8pm at The Pearson Centre, Nuart Road, Beeston.

What's on: Speakers from the Vote Leave and Stronger In campaigns will go head to head in a public debate. The debate will be chaired by John Hess the former Political Editor of BBC East Midlands Today.

Anna Soubry MP Barton House, 61 High Road, Chilwell, NG9 4AJ

0115 943 6507

anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk

annasoubry.org.uk