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Save our Green Belt!

News from the campaign to stop thousands of houses being built on Broxtowe's Green Belt land.

September 27th 2012

www.annasoubry.org.uk

Hello again,

This is a special email newsletter giving updates on my campaign to defend our Green Belt from development. However, I do have a few snippets of news. The travellers on Chilwell School left on Monday (after torching a caravan); my thanks to the local police for all their efforts in difficult circumstances and the fire brigade for their swift response to the fire. Finally, please check out the various MacMillan Coffee events tomorrow on my web site www.annasoubry.org.uk.

As ever,

Anna

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An application to build 800 homes on the Green Belt land opposite the Tram terminus is expected by the end of this week. In anticipation of that I have booked the Greenwood Centre for a public meeting on **Sunday October 21st** between 2 and 4. I will also ensure every resident is fully informed of how to object to the plans and we work together to see off this application.

Broxtowe's claims about our housing needs

You may have heard the claim from one Borough Councillor that if Broxtowe doesn't accept the target of 6,150 houses and build on our Green Belt then our children will be "sleeping rough" in years to come!

Hopefully rather more rationally, I have argued that Broxtowe Borough Council has failed to assess our housing needs and instead has simply accepted the last Government's figure of 6,150 as the number of new houses required to meet our needs. In any event I and others have questioned that figure based on the recent census figures that indicate Broxtowe's population will grow at a far slower rate. I continue with my view that Broxtowe Borough Council has simply rolled over and is sacrificing our Green Belt land to satisfy Nottingham's housing needs.

Neil Hutchinson, who chairs the Greasley Opposes Green Belt Development (who by the way organised 644 people to make submissions opposing the Borough Council's plans),

has written a detailed letter providing an analysis of the data which comes to the same conclusion. I would urge anyone with an interest in defending our Green Belt to read Neil's letter on my web site by clicking [here](#)

You may have seen or heard various claims that Broxtowe Borough Council has no alternative but to accept the target of 6,150 and mutterings about advice from experts.

Beeston Borough Councillor Steve Barber, who also chairs the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board, wrote a letter to a local newspaper in which he claimed

“our consultants and experts came up with a much higher housing figure and the inspector indicated to us that in the absence of striking new evidence, he will not accept any lower than this.”

This is a serious assertion as Inspectors are independent and one will chair the Inquiry into the Councils plans for our Green Belt. I made further enquiries with Cllr Barber who said the claim had been made in a meeting back in October of last year. I checked the minutes which did not record the alleged advice. So I wrote to the Inspector to ask what had been said. The Chief Planning Inspector, Peter Burley, stated, “The quantum of development was not discussed in any detail at the meeting”.

I have since written to Cllr Barber again, on 4th September, asking him to explain on what basis he made his claim and to assure me he has not made this up, which would be a very serious matter. I am yet to receive a response.

Finally, there has been a great deal of speculation suggesting the Government is set to weaken the special protection given to Green Belt land. I have written to the new Planning Minister Nick Boles for assurance this is not the case and again the letter is on my web site. I will of course let you know his response.

Opencast Update

A number of people have asked about the application by UK Coal for an opencast mine on Green Belt land between Trowell and Cossall. Broxtowe Borough Council opposed the plans though the decision on whether to grant permission will be taken by Nottinghamshire County Council. Notts were due to consider the application “early autumn” but have requested more information from UK Coal. Until that information has been received the County Council are unable to set a date to consider the application but it is likely to be in early Spring 2013.



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