

Defend our Green Belt

November 29 2013



The latest news on my campaign to stop Broxtowe Borough Council from handing over our Green Belt to housing development (and weekend diary events).

Hello again,

This is a special email newsletter about recent events concerning the future of our Green Belt, which I have been campaigning to save from housing development since 2007.

Such is my concern, I have spoken to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, about the continuing threat to Broxtowe's Green Belt.

I hope it will be of interest to everyone in the constituency. Good planning is not just about building more homes, it is also about the future of our towns, economic growth, improved infrastructure and a better environment.

I have written to the Planning Inspector calling on her to re-open the recent Public Inquiry, specifically to hear more evidence about the Green Belt land at Toton (full details below).

I will be sending out my usual email newsletter in the next few days.

In the meantime - have a great weekend. Please scroll on for the weekend diary of events.

Anna

P.S. Don't forget the Public Meeting on Saturday Dec 7 at the Greenwood Centre, Toton at 2.30. Everyone is welcome to discuss the future of our Green Belt land.

Encouraging news for Field Farm

Last Friday, the Inspector issued a statement (which you can read in full by clicking [here](#)).

It is a mix of encouraging and bad news. In relation to Field Farm, the Inspector has clearly listened to the submissions of myself, STRAG, Town Councillor Dave Pearson, and others about the flaws in the plans for Field Farm.



Notably she is flagging up her concerns that 450 houses at Field Farm will place a considerable extra burden on an already over congested road system in that part of the constituency. The Inspector has also taken on board our arguments that the nature and design of the plans for Field Farm and its location mean that it will not be a true part of Stapleford and accordingly will have

little, if any benefit for the people of the town.

Those of us who have consistently campaigned to save Field Farm from development have been subject to considerable scorn, notably from a number of Labour and Lib Dem Councillors. You might have imagined our efforts would have at least been recognised as genuine and representative of the communities we seek to represent, even if our opponents believe we are misguided.

I certainly pay real tribute to the tenacity and determination of STRAG and Town Councillors like Dave Pearson. Trust me, it is not easy giving evidence at these Inquiries with a barrage of developers and planners lined up in front of you!

We were told the Secretary of State would never “call in” Broxtowe Borough Council’s decision to allow hundreds of houses on Field Farm. He did. We were told the Inspector wouldn’t hesitate to approve the plans. She is. We are a long way off winning our campaign but we battle on and, even if we lose, I am sure you will remember who sold out and who stuck by what they believe to be right.



Toton - our "Hokey Cokey" Council and why the Inspector must re-open the Inquiry

Tuesday’s announcement was more bad news for Toton.

Broxtowe’s “hokey cokey” Borough Council has put the Green Belt land at Toton “in” then “out” and now back “in”, leaving residents feeling shaken all about and badly let down.

I think we need to be absolutely clear about what has happened.

At an extra day of the Inquiry, and without notice, the Inspector said she was minded to recommend hundreds of houses at Toton. This was despite written and oral evidence from myself and a few other campaigners.

You will recall, the land at Toton was made a “preferred site” for development by Broxtowe Borough Council and then taken out of their plan after we (Toton’s Tory Councillors, myself and residents) changed the minds of the controlling Labour/Lib Dem group.

Then, after HS2 announced that the East Midlands hub is to be sited at Toton Sidings, Broxtowe suggested commercial development and some houses. I continued to oppose any housing and made my submissions to the Council and the Inspector.

After the Inspector stated that she thought there should be hundreds of houses on Toton’s Green Belt, Broxtowe’s planners recommended 500 in total. Labour and Lib Dem councillors held a secret meeting and voted in favour of the recommendation. I don’t know who attended this meeting. It may be that residents will want to contact Labour and Lib Dem Councillors to ask if they attended, if they spoke and how they voted.

What I do know is that Toton’s Conservative Councillors remain opposed to housing development on Toton’s Green Belt land and that, together, we have been consistent in our opposition. We will continue our campaign with a public meeting on Saturday December 7th at 2.30pm in the Greenwood Centre in Toton.

Just because the Inspector has formed a view does not mean that we should lie down and accept it. That is why I have written to her requesting that she re-opens the Inquiry so that residents

and campaign groups can also give evidence about Toton's Green belt land.

As your MP, it is my role to represent you and do what I believe is right. Frankly, I am disappointed at the "crowing" of some Labour and Lib Dem Councillors because the Inspector has agreed with their housing target. It is the target that threatens thousands of houses on our Green Belt land. These Councillors are supposed to represent the people of Broxtowe and fight on their behalf.

TEPS is, quite properly, free to take advice from wherever it so chooses. However, I am saddened they have consistently ignored my advice and chosen to follow others, who as I feared, have let them down. Broxtowe Borough Council still has to debate and vote on the new plans for Toton. There will be no secret votes on that occasion.

Finally, and again to be quite clear, those who seek to "blame" recent events on Government policy should remind themselves that our policy includes clear statements about the value and importance of Green Belt land. It should not be subject to development save for "exceptional circumstances".

I continue to take the firm view that the Inspector has, thus far, not applied Government policy to Broxtowe's plans. That is one reason why I have sent copies of my letters to the Inspector to Eric Pickles MP, who is the Secretary of State.

I may be wrong, but I will continue to be true to what I believe to be right.

Greasley Public Meeting

Last night's meeting called by Borough and County Councillors, Mick Brown, Margaret Handley, Stuart Rowland and John Handley attracted up to 150 people.

Greasley Parish Council have taken on the great Ken Mafham to advise them (Ken is also representing STRAG).

A number of sites have been put forward by the Borough Council as suitable for development (some on Green Belt land and some on brown field which can only be accessed through Green Belt land) in their site allocations consultation. There is continuing opposition to plans for homes off Thorn Drive.

It really is good to see everyone coming together to support and represent Greasley. The consultation deadline is 5pm on Friday 10th January 2014, for more information visit the 'Save our Green Belt' page on my website by clicking [here](#)

What's on this weekend - including tomorrow's Drop In Surgery in Stapleford

Tonight in Kimberley!

Christmas Lights Switch on

6pm

Holy Trinity Church

Pre school Carol Singing and Dancing

7pm

Christmas Lights switched on in Toll Bar Square
masses of activities for all

Saturday 30 November

Stapleford Library Re-Opening

10am

Stapleford Library, Church Street, Stapleford NG9 8GA

The official re-opening! with fun for all the family

Greasley – Victorian Christmas Market

10am til 3pm

St Mary's Church, Church Road, Greasley NG16 2AB

Drop-in surgery - Montrose Court, Stapleford

11.30am til 1.30pm

Montrose Court Community Centre, Stapleford NG9 8LJ

Your opportunity to meet me to discuss any problems issues or concerns you may have.

Beeston Christmas Light Switch On

(lights switch on at 5pm followed by fireworks)

Broadgate Park, Beeston

Events include; Penguin Experience, Apus Birds, Long Eaton Silver Prize band and more

Santa's Grotto

12pm til 6pm

Beeston Square

Entry is free and every child will receive a gift.

Season of Lights

2.30pm til 5pm

Chilwell Road Methodist Church

Celebrating; Advent, Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah, Chinese Moon Festival, crafts, food, music, dance and much more.

RumbleProm Night

7.15pm til 9.30pm

Rumbletums, 2 Victoria Street, Kimberley NG16 2NH

A chance for young people with learning disabilities, their friends and families to get their glad rags on and join in for a pre-Christmas party.

For more information please click [here](#)

Sunday 1 December_

Bramcote Crematorium's Christmas Service of Remembrance

2pm

Main Chapel, Bramcote Crematorium, Coventry Lane, Bramcote

For friends and family to come together at Christmas time to remember loved ones no longer with us.

World Aids Day Awareness Event

1pm til 4pm

Beeston Youth and Community Centre, West End, Beeston NG9 1GL

An event for anyone aged 10 - 19.

For more information click [here](#)

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