

Please use the forward button above to send this on to a friend or neighbour - if they aren't on the internet please print it off for them! Best of all ask your friends and neighbours to sign up for my email newsletter through my website or by emailing me on [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)

# Anna Soubry MP

working hard for Broxtowe

[www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)

E-newsletter | December 8 2013

"a decent Conservative" *Kevin McGuire, Daily Mirror*

"If only all ministers answered questions like Anna Soubry does." *David Aaronovitch, The Times*

"she has a record of unusually free speech" *Simon Carr, The Independent*

"part of the beating heart of the parliamentary Tory party" *Quentin Letts, The Daily Mail*



## Parliament pays tribute to Nelson Mandela

Tomorrow Parliament will pay tribute to the great Nelson Mandela.

As it happens I am taking 80 constituents - community and campaign leaders and volunteers who contribute so much to life in Broxtowe, to Westminster for a tour of Parliament. We will stop at the spot where Mandela addressed both Houses - Commons and Lords in 1996, the second of only five people to be honoured in that way since the Second World War.

It will be a privilege to hear the tributes from all sides of the House to Nelson Mandela, a truly remarkable and inspiring leader.

[Click here for the link to Nelson Mandela's address to Parliament in 1996](#)

**Broxtowe's controlling group set to back at least 500 houses at Toton**

Over 300 people packed out Toton's Greenwood Centre to protest at plans to build at least 500 houses on the areas Green Belt.

It was a lively meeting and my thanks to everyone who attended on a Saturday afternoon in the run up to Christmas.

I was especially grateful that Ken Mafham a wholly independent planning expert, who has been helping STRAG in their fight to stop development on Field Farm, was able to attend and speak at length.

We now know that Broxtowe's controlling group intend to vote in favour of at least 500 houses on Toton's Green Belt.

Broxtowe Borough councillor Steve Barber, who chairs the Development Control Committee (and the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board which has consistently agreed to high housing targets) confirmed our worst fears. Labour and Lib Dem councillors who control Broxtowe, met in secret in a "panic" and voted in favour of at least 500 houses at Toton. Many residents will remember the promises and assurances given by some of those very same councillors.

Cllr. Barber made a number of serious claims about what the Inspector has said and done in relation to Toton. I will accordingly write to her so she can answer these charges, which if true, add further fuel to my belief that the recent public inquiry was fundamentally flawed. Ken Mafham said that in over twenty years of participating in similar inquiries and processes he has never seen such a shambles.

**But the fight to save Toton's Green Belt is far from over. As Barbara Bakewell from TEPS said just because Broxtowe seems set to agree to mass housing at Toton we will not give up.**

The Nottingham Post and BBC Nottingham sent reporters so you should be able to read or hear an account tomorrow (Monday).

I will post my take on the meeting on my web site, [annasoubry@org.uk](mailto:annasoubry@org.uk). I will include details of who to write to at Broxtowe Borough Council and give some ideas on what to say in your letter or email. Broxtowe will take any final decision at the beginning of next year.

At the meeting a number of residents agreed to set up a Facebook page, use Twitter and other social media to step up the campaign - again more details when I get them.

I will follow up my discussions with the Prime Minister by way of a letter, to inform him of what is happening in Broxtowe despite Government policy which clearly states Green Belt land should not be developed on unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I am sorry to say that amongst some Broxtowe Councillors "exceptional circumstances" amount to breaking promises and giving in to the developers.

**Broxtowe Conservative Councillors and I remain opposed to housing development on Green Belt in Toton and throughout the constituency.**

And finally .....

I will announce the winner of my first Christmas Card competition later this week; 300 Infant and Junior school pupils from all over the constituency took part so it's been a tough judging job! I am posting out about 3,000 cards this year and sending the card digitally to everyone who receives this email newsletter.

With 120 constituents coming to Parliament this week, my team and I are going to be particularly busy so bear with us!

Anna Soubry MP, Barton House, High Road, Chilwell, NG94AJ  
0115 9436507  
[anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)  
[anna.soubry.org](http://anna.soubry.org)