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**From:** [admin@saveourgreenbelt](mailto:admin@saveourgreenbelt)

**To:** [kevin.barron.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kevin.barron.mp@parliament.uk)

**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 8:17 PM

**Subject:** Councillor Smith's letter

Dear Mr Barron

First of all, the Group would like to thank you for your involvement and the copy of the letter from Councillor Smith dated 29/10/2012.

We held a meeting to discuss the content of the reply from Councillor Smith relating to your question in the letter of 11/07/2012 of:

"Therefore I would be grateful if you could clarify what changes relating to Dinnington East have been made since last years consultation process".

Whilst there are many words in the reply from Councillor Smith some of which might be considered by speculative when relating to the Group's 'concerns' they do not address the question.

We will restrict our reply to the text, in the penultimate paragraph, relating directly to the question viz "*In the light of the group's concerns, prior to publication we amended the vision statement in the "Core Strategy" to remove reference to Dinnington East and instead to refer to the broader Dinnington, Anston and Laughton Common area*".

Given that the only difference made as a result of 'consultation' to the 2011 core strategy is a change to the nomenclature 'Dinnington East' in the vision statement, it can be argued that the 'consultation process' of 2011 does **not** fulfil the criteria of a "consultation".

The preface to the Core Strategy Consultation Document of 2012 claims that "*The Core Strategy has been produced in consultation with residents and others concerned with Rotherham's future. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the preparation of the Strategy. We have listened to your concerns and it has been significantly improved as a result of these valuable contributions. I believe it provides a strong basis to guide development in our borough, and help make Rotherham a place we can be proud of.*"

A simple change in the vision statement can hardly give rise to the claim "*We have listened to your concerns and it has been significantly improved as a result of these valuable contributions*" in the 2012 preface. However, it does serve as a reminder to many resident's views of 'not being listened to' and of being patronised'.

It must be said that the Group has had a useful meeting with Councillor Smith and others in recent weeks.

If you wish to discuss this reply, or Councillor Smith's reply in more detail the Group is, as always, willing to meet at your convenience.

Regards

Victor Betts

