

Public Meeting held with Ward Councillors to discuss Local development framework consultation and proposed sites for the Dinnington area held on Friday 9/09/2011 at 7.15pm at the Monksbridge Community Centre.

In Attendance: Ward Councillors Jacquie Falvey, Jane Havenhand and Simon Tweed.

Approximately one hundred Local Residents.

The meeting was chaired and facilitated by Vic Betts

The following agenda was used to stimulate discussion/questions/answers if possible regarding The Local Development Framework which proposes a substantial House Building and Commercial Development Program in the Dinnington/Anston Area possibly using current Greenfield and greenbelt Sites in its on going development.

1. Councillors and Officials present.
2. Councillors and Officials apologies for absence.
3. Purpose of the meeting.
4. Statement by Councillors.
5. Statement by an Action Group Representative.
6. Questions from the floor.
7. Post meeting summary by the Councillors
8. Post meeting summary by the Action Group.

Date of next meeting.

The meeting started at 7.15 pm

1. Councillors attending listed above.
2. No apologies from other Ward Members received.
3. The Chairman advised everyone that the purpose of the meeting was for everyone to have their say and to take on board the views of all residents and forward them on to the Borough Council's Planning Department for them to seriously consider and act in favour on their concerns.
4. The Ward Members thanked the Action Group for inviting them to the meeting promising to listen and forward on their views to the appropriate department at RMBC.
5. The Action Group Spokesman advised the meeting that they were eager to hear all concerns and that everyone should have their say.
6. Questions/comments from the Floor:
 - How many people knew of any proposed consultation regarding this matter? A show of hands only revealed four or five did.

- No advertising of forthcoming consultations in Dinnington except at the Library.
- How many Council and Private Properties are empty in Rotherham?
- Many Commercial Sites are empty and where will an explosion of population live.
- How many properties per hectare are planned?
- What percentage of new properties planned will be affordable housing?
- Why do we want more when there are many properties in the Public and private sector empty?
- Can 25% of affordable housing be guaranteed?
- Social and Private Housing don't mix.
- What happens if people cannot afford new housing, will houses be boarded up right left and centre?
- Can Dinnington cope with a large surge in population? No way was the unanimous reply from the residents.
- Following on from the above, how on earth would other facilities such as Schools cope?
- Have Planners looked at Greenbelt near Birkdale Crescent?
- What about sewage and drains etc?
- Will any of the proposed new homes be built on existing woodland?
- What will happen to all our lovely wildlife?
- Will Developers go over the Council Planners heads to the Secretary of State to get their way if planning applications are turned down?
- Building on our greenbelt would destroy wildlife that has taken years to build up.
- On what date was the greenbelt taken away from Wentworth Way?
- How much does The Council make out of all this via planning applications etc?
- Will developers pay for road improvements?
- Why are new homes planned during a recession?
- Why do we have to have new build when there are at least 300 homes empty?
- Who are the Social Housing Applicants, it has been heard that 500 or so are waiting, are they all to be housed in Dinnington and where are they from?
- 29000 people on Council waiting list! More Ghettos to be created!
- Will Social Housing Applicants in Dinnington get priority?
- Lack of recreational facility already in Dinnington so will new facilities come with extra housing?
- Traffic increases, danger to the public/kids, has any analysis been done ahead of development?
- Are there to be any more Council Houses to be built along with Housing Association Homes?
- Farmers are waiting to sell land therefore no need for C.P.Os.
- Housing Stock in Rotherham currently around 110,000.
- A proposed increase of around 9%, this equates to around 1,100 homes.
- A larger percentage of new build is proposed for this area than anywhere else in the Borough, why?
- Strong objections to developing green field sites instead of using existing brown field sites.
- Has land at the bottom of Lakelands (three trees) been forgotten about?
- The population of Rotherham has seen relatively little change over the last twenty years (Around 250,000) so where are all these new residents supposed to be coming from?
- Worries about future education for our kids after large scale development.
- Councillors were reminded of their duty to truly represent the community that had voted for them and stand up for the communities concerns.
- Suggested that a small working sub group be formed to take all views forward.
- Tonight's meeting only came about because of the vigilance of the Action Group and not brought about through any meaningful and proper consultation by Planning.

- Residents were hugely disappointed that the Director of Planning had not attended this important meeting to hear first hand from the residents and to be able to give some answers.

The Councillors gave answers to several of the questions asked where they could and would try and get the answers to other questions they were unable to answer. They asked for a few names from the floor to form a small delegation representative of the residents present.

7. The Ward Members fully supported many of the views expressed by the residents and in particular their wish to retain the green belt untouched in the locality although did remind residents that they are part of the decision and policy making process but promised to take concerns back to the Planning Dept for consideration.

The Action Group thanked The Ward Members and asked for feedback.

8. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.