

Government Minister Endorses Campaign by the Save Our Greenbelt Dinnington & Anston Action Group

In a letter from Nick Boles to Kevin Barron he welcomes the fact that many of the views of the Dinnington & Anston Action Group align closely with government policy. The Planning Minister also welcomes the Group supporting the development of affordable housing to meet local needs and wishes to encourage them to take an active role in planning processes regarding the best way in which development can be brought to their area.

As a great deal of the Greenbelt has been saved in Dinnington and Anston, the local community should congratulate itself on opposing development of the Greenbelt so vigorously. However, as some of the Greenbelt is still under threat this is no time for complacency.

The parish of Anston has no preferred sites for development. However, land between Woodsetts Road and Rackford Road is to be released from the Greenbelt together with land at Throapham as safeguarded land for development after 2028. Some of the land at Throapham is now a preferred site. One of Anston's ward councillors, at a meeting with RMBC planners on 25th April 2012, recommended both of these sites for development. At a meeting with RMBC officers on Tuesday 21st May 2013 it was made clear to the group and ward councillors that Greenbelt status will be removed from both of these safeguarded sites in the near future because of government legislation.

Also at the meeting with RMBC the group registered its concern at some of the high quality agricultural land and recreational land off Wentworth Way and Birkdale Avenue together with Dinnington Welfare being preferred sites for development. Officers stated that they may review the status of these sites.

Several weeks ago the Group suggested to Dinnington Town Council that they have the ownership of the recreational area off Birkdale Avenue transferred to DTC. At the same time, the Group contacted the owners of the land off Wentworth Way with a view to purchasing the land. As for the remainder of the agricultural land in the area, which the owners want to sell, perhaps the way forward is for the community to purchase it for agricultural and recreational use.

It must be said that it is a disappointment that RMBC did not fully keep to the agreement made with the local community in November 2011. But it comes as no surprise in light of the Chair of Anston Parish Council being on record as having said "RMBC can dismiss our (APC?) legitimate concerns regarding the Greenbelt despite a majority of views to the contrary".

Whilst a good deal of the Greenbelt originally identified in the Core Strategy of 2011 is not included in the current consultation document, the Greenbelt is still under threat, especially as 43% of any new housing in the Borough will be for migrants.

Given the recommendation by the government minister that the group continues to take an active role in planning processes we remain committed to reducing the threat to the Greenbelt and the provision on affordable housing to fulfil local needs.

This is not the end of the road for local community action, but the beginning of a new phase in protecting Greenbelt land from development.

Please visit the website for up to date Information – www.saveourgreenbelt.info

Details of the consultation open days:

Anston	Anston Parish Hall	Tuesday 4 June	1430 - 1830
Dinnington	Dinnington Resource Centre	Thursday 20 June	1430 - 1830