

Article released to Dinnington Guardian, Rotherham Advertiser, Sheffield Star and the Yorkshire Post

Following the grave concerns of the local community regarding proposals to allocate Greenbelt land for building on the Save Our Greenbelt Dinnington & Anston Action Group held a public meeting on the 7th October 2011. The local residents were canvassed and were adamant that no building should take place on their Greenbelt unless absolutely necessary. One outcome of the meeting was a letter to the Chief Executive of RMBC and to the Leader of the Council stating a prioritisation of building land which would be acceptable to the local community.

The Group met with the council on the 3rd November 2011. At this meeting the council requested the Action Group to use local knowledge to identify parcels of land that were consistent with the aims of the Group and the wishes of the community. In the same meeting the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council agreed to the proposals of the Group, on behalf of the community, in terms of the sequence of the type of land to be built on;

“Building on Brownfield sites should be maximised with priority being given to derelict and overgrown land.

Where building on Greenbelt cannot be avoided at any cost, preference should be based on the following order of precedence:

Scrub land

Grassland whilst retaining traditional recreation areas

Any building on agricultural land to be restricted to the lowest quality land.

New builds to be complementary in style and purpose to any existing homes in the locale.”

On Wednesday 25th April 2012 the Group had a meeting with the Strategic Director and the Strategic Policy Team Leader at which ward councillors Jacquie Falvey, Jane Havenhand, Darren Hughes and Simon Tweed, were present. The Group submitted its proposals based on the agreement with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council in November 2011. These proposals identified many more hectares of Brownfield sites than the original consultation proposals, sufficient land to support more than 150% of housing demanded by LDF, minimal use of grassland and low quality Greenbelt and NO requirement to use any high quality agricultural land. Regarding flooding, it is important to the residents and businesses of Worksop that no land has been identified that increases the catchment area of Anston Brook and the River Ryton. The council representatives welcomed the submission from the Group, committed to consider it in detail and provide feedback.

Whilst the Action Group appreciates that there may be technical reasons why some of the identified sites are not feasible, the Group’s expectations of the next consultation document include the maximisation of preferred sites for the building of homes on Brownfield land and no claim whatsoever to the proposed use of any high quality agricultural land as agreed with RMBC in November.

30 April 2012