PRESENTATION TO CABINET by South Stoke Parish Council. 10.07.2014.

South Stoke Parish Council are deeply concerned that you are about to recommend that Full Council should vote to adopt a modified version of BANES Core Strategy, which includes the intention to remove land from the Green Belt in South Stoke Parish.

The land area defined is far greater than that needed for the 300 houses now intended. Any potential future constraint to limit development to this number, will be dramatically weakened by the loss of Green Belt status. The Government Inspector has made it clear that his decision to support this part of your plan is based on the Council's assertion, that no more affordable housing is possible within the city.

You know that if this is true, it is as a direct result of your decision to pursue commercially lead development on every possible major site. It now transpires that this hasty rush for cash will create a student ghetto in the commercial south of the City, with no provision for the much needed affordable housing for key workers.

It is a dreadful quandary that we now face: Either,

To adopt a Core Strategy that allows the start of significant erosion of the Green Belt that surrounds our World Heritage City;

Or,

To face a modest period of upheaval, whilst a properly balanced plan, which provides the right sort of housing in and for the City, is fashioned.

You have created this dilemma and your ability to resolve it with a bold and honest decision will be of Local and National importance.

We ask you now to set this Core Strategy aside and come back in a matter of months with a plan that will save all the green surroundings of the City for future generations.