

PRESENTATION to BANES Council by South Stoke Parish Council. 10.07.2014.

South Stoke Parish Council are deeply concerned that you may be about to vote to adopt the final 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 Council's decision to pursue commercially lead development on every possible major site. It now transpires that this policy will create a student ghetto in the commercial south of the City, with no provision at all for much needed affordable housing, for key workers.

It is a dreadful quandary that we all 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.

Your decision tonight will have dramatic consequences. Either the potential for an element of modest chaos for short while, or a long term total disaster for Bath and its green surroundings.

We are asking you to take a clear decision now to save the Green Belt for the Community and put affordable housing where it is needed, on Council land, in the City.

If you fail to do this and vote to adopt this discredited plan you will be responsible for the start of a cancer in our "Green Lungs", equivalent to the "Sack of Bath".

We, our children and our children's children will remember how you vote tonight.

Please Vote No!

Robert Hellard
Vice Chairman South Stoke Parish Council.