

My name is Mary Walsh- joint chair of Whitchurch Village Action Group

As a long term campaigner for the protection of Whitchurch I am very sad to see that land will be released from the Green Belt to build another 125 houses .Horse World application was rejected by B&NES on Green Belt issues knowing that the land would be removed from the Green Belt Horse World could then reapply and be accepted,a waste of time, effort and money for all concerned.

This is however to be set against the greater damage which would be inflicted on us and almost all other villages if the Core Strategy is not adopted tonight.

Some time ago we approached our local ward councillor to help us set up a Neighbourhood plan this was rejected and the reason given "The Core Strategy would deal with planning and as an RA1 village we would be allocated 20 houses "So we took his word,how foolish we were! We have suffered 2 years of the worst kind of speculative opportunist development imposed on us by lack of a 5 year plan policy in the form of a current Local Plan.

If we were to continue the countryside in B&NES would be destroyed by the greed of the developers.If our neighbourhood plan had been instigated I would not be here today and the people of Whitchurch would be much happier

We have been told on numerous occasions that B&NES dare not object to obviously inappropriate developments for fear of financial penalties of losing at appeal.

If local democracy means anything at all this must stop and the only way is to adopt the Core Strategy tonight.

I am brave enough to accept that it is not perfect but I can see that it is the only way forward and I urge you to be brave enough to vote for it.

One more anomaly before I finish the parcel of land 7100 Gypsy Site Woollard Lane Whitchurch was granted permission by B&NES overriding 3 Inspectors refusals is on green belt land. Where is this mentioned in the Green Belt removal?