

Good Evening, my name is Mary Walsh, resident of Whitchurch Village for years.

We formed Whitchurch Village Action Group some 5 years ago when we learned we were going to be swallowed up by 8000 houses in an urban extension. This was the Regional Spatial Strategy. The housing figures were arrived at by Computer Modelling and not necessarily housing needs tailored for the local area. Well over 30.000 people supported our cause to scrap the RSS. Please remember that the SWRSS was never ratified yet still the defunct housing figures are still referred to as point of reference. Even labour ministers concede the figures were wrong.

David Cameron promises us Localism and protection of the Green Belt. What is Localism? To us it means local opinion from those who know the roads are congested, that employment is always a car journey away, that Green Belt stops us being joined up with Stockwood. We have the support of approx. 70% of residents who wish to keep Whitchurch Village within the Green Belt. They do not want to be an extension of Bristol and Bristol does not want an urban extension either.

Whitchurch Village is an RA1 village. We are being discriminated against by having to absorb more housing than all the other RA1 Villages. There is no justification for this. The 200 houses suggested, does not include the 47 houses Barratt Homes gained upon Appeal recently and I suspect neither will it include Horse World intentions for 90 houses that they will apply for under Very Exceptional Circumstances so already we are up to 337 plus there is an active application which your Officers have controversially put on hold until after this meeting for 295 houses. That could mean 432 houses.

These faceless computer modellers sitting in their offices, do not have knowledge of the local Topography or logistics. The Infrastructure is unable to cope with any further development.

There are very many houses for sale right now within Whitchurch Village and the County, new development and old. We know where the greed is but where is the need?

I ask the Council why it needs a planning department. All outcomes are either directed from Government by one means or another with a Government Appointed Inspector as a last resort to bull doze applications through.