

Good evening. My name is Jill Britten, Beef Farmer working within the Green Belt.

I am here to talk about the value of the Green Belt on the Southern fringes of the conurbation called Bristol.

Bristol City Council neither want nor need an urban extension around Whitchurch Village as stated in their Core Strategy which has been ratified. There are a variety of reasons to their judgement. This open space is important. It continues to create separation of Stockwood, Bristol from Whitchurch Village within Bath & North East Somerset. It has recreational value, the infrastructure cannot support further development at this point, access to employment requires private transport. In other words, to Bristol, it is unsustainable.

No amount of SHLAA or SHMA or ORS computer modelling can justify your intentions for Whitchurch Village. Who are these houses needed for? There are many houses for sale at Whitchurch Village indicating a good supply chain. 600 houses are for sale at Paulton with only a hundred or so sold.

Whitchurch Village is surrounded by the Green Belt. It is the very reason Whitchurch Village still exists. My colleague will speak to you later about Localism and how the locals have responded over the years to urban extension threats.

I ask you all take on board the importance of this Green Belt and the ramifications upon removal of it from around Whitchurch Village.

Now would you build 200 houses in Victoria Park? Why not. People could walk to work, maybe cycle. Developers would love it. High end properties, loads of money. Your Park running costs would be severely reduced. But no this is not going to happen. Just what would the locals say.

Now Whitchurch Village only survives because of the Green Belt. Are you going to remove this very survival kit, because if you do you are going against the wishes of the majority of those living in the area and you will be consigning Whitchurch Village to oblivion.

Whitchurch Village is part of your Council and wishes your Council to retain its identity by maintaining the Green Belt.

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.