

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 September 2017 19:37
To: Blackcountrycorestra
Subject: Halesowen green belt building proposals

Dear Sir or Madam

I was very concerned to hear about plans to build on green belt around Halesowen and Lapal areas. I realise that I am too late to have my views formally taken into account - the issue went off the radar because of holidays and such during September. I am aware that others more knowledgeable than I have put forward their objections. I wish only to add my voice to theirs and to make two general points.

These green spaces are precious in our urban landscape, and provide a much needed lung into the densely populated West Midlands conurbation and a valuable amenity for those living in the area. I do understand the need for housing and jobs, but building upon green belt land should be a last resort. There seems little evidence that those landowners holding onto derelict or unused property, whether that be residential or business premises, are being encouraged, persuaded, legally required or forced to put the land to good use or sell it. The council has an important role in this by identifying such land/premises and allowing reclassification for housing purposes where necessary.

Secondly, we all know that developers prefer greenfield sites - they are cheaper to develop and do not have the problems of contamination, access and so on associated with brownfield sites. Furthermore, they want to make a profit. The biggest need in housing is for decent social housing and low cost options. Developers tend not to be interested in these projects, apart from being required to include some low-cost units in the development. If the lovely countryside around Halesowen has to be developed, what guarantee is there that the most urgent needs will be prioritised?

I look forward to seeing the next phase of the plan and hope to put my views forward then. In the meantime, I would be grateful if the above points could be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully

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