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Dear Resident,

Many of you have been in contact with me over the proposals to build on green belt sites for housing and employment as part of Sheffield's Local Plan, as well as the consultation that is now running on this issue.

Every local authority like Sheffield City Council has to produce a local plan as it determines where housing and employment land will be allocated over a long period of time. This allows for better urban planning and provision of amenities.

Up until February this year the Council had managed to provide this land on brownfield or grey belt sites like Norton Aerodrome. However, the Planning Inspectorate who have to ultimately approve the plan said in February that the housing targets were not being met under the Council's proposals and there was a need to find an additional 3527 homes.

Having exhausted brownfield sites that had either already been allocated or otherwise made unavailable the Council had to consider building on the green belt. In May the released proposals which saw 44% of all the allocation in Handsworth alone on Handsworth Hall Farm and Beaver Hill. I do not believe this is fair.

I must be clear that I do believe we have to hit the housing targets set. We are in a housing crisis, and I have many constituents write to me about being made homeless through no fault evictions or facing impossible rent increases. The only way to fix that crisis is through building more houses. However, to allocate so many houses in one part of the city is not fair. It is not fair on Handsworth which will lose nearly all its green space but is also not fair on those who want to live in other parts of the city but can't because houses aren't being built there under this local plan. That is why I am objecting to the level of housebuilding in Handsworth and am working with the residents' group to get the Planning Inspectorate to recognise that unfairness that undermines the local plan.

The purpose of this letter today is to ensure you are aware of these developments but also ask that if you have any information that you think will be useful in making this case to contact either my office or the residents' working group ([info@saves13greenbelt.org.uk](mailto:info@saves13greenbelt.org.uk)).

The consultation period for this process ends on the 11<sup>th</sup> July and you can either make a submission via the online form, or via email to [sheffieldplan@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:sheffieldplan@sheffield.gov.uk). If you are unable to do either of these please contact my office on 0114 275 7788 and we can assist.

If you would like a copy of my own submission to the local plan please sign up to the mailing list I am running on this issue at [officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk](mailto:officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk) where I will be circulating it. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this issue or the process, please call my office and we can help.

Best,

Clive Betts  
MP for Sheffield South East