

LOUGHBOROUGH SOUTH WEST ACTION GROUP (SWAG)

www.loughboroughswag.co.uk

info@loughboroughswag.co.uk

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE OUR COUNTRYSIDE

The government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2011 which sets out how planning decisions will be taken in future.

LSWAG was formed early in 2009 to fight a proposal to build a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) across the countryside leading up to Jubilee Woods and Outwoods. The proposal included 3000 houses, schools, shops and probably a bypass running between J23 of the M1 and the A6 at Woodthorpe.

We had hoped and it is probably fair to say, that we had expected, given the promises that both the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives had made, prior to the General Election, regarding the environment and protecting our countryside, that all would be well.

However, together with groups up and down the country similar to ours, plus The National Trust, (NT) Campaign for the Protection of rural England, (CPRE) and many more distinguished individuals, national newspapers and organisations, we have very grave concerns about many aspects of the proposed NPPF.

What does “sustainable development” and “communities” actual mean?

Without definitions and clarity how do we know whether the proposed SUE across the south west would be seen as “sustainable” However, we do know that the Government is using financial incentives (some say bribes) to encourage Council’s to grant planning permission for “sustainable developments”

We also know that Leicestershire County Council has carried out a survey to establish what green spaces are considered to be important, however, it is also worth noting that no formal proposals for the green space designation have been issued by the Government.

More information can be found by going to:

www.leics.gov.uk/greenspaces

It is now vitally important that once again we demonstrate to our elected representatives at local and national level, just as we did at the South West Area Forum Meeting in March, the strength of our feelings.

Our actions today will help to decide the fate of the English Countryside, as we know it and love it, for generations to come.

LOUGHBOROUGH SOUTH WEST ACTION GROUP (SWAG)

www.loughboroughswag.co.uk

info@loughboroughswag.co.uk

Remind yourself of the beauty of our local countryside by viewing our DVD and photos on www.loughboroughswag.co.uk Better still, take a walk from anywhere between Woodthorpe and Nanpantan up to The Outwoods. You would not wish to lose such scenery!

Nicky Morgan MP has agreed to attend a full LSWAG meeting and would like to hear your views. She has given permission for me to publish this email and hopes that the forthcoming meeting will be able to discuss detail so that she has some clear points to put back to the Government.

Subject: RE: Localism Bill

Many thanks Patrick.

I think that within the context of development of land "sustainable" means development which makes life better for the current generation without compromising the lives of future generations. In terms of local communities this is slightly open at the moment because the Localism Bill doesn't contain a definition of neighbourhoods – my view is that, locally, it is easier to see that in a village context this probably means the Parish.

Within Loughborough I suspect we may be looking at either an area covered by an Area Forum or, if that is a bit artificial, a more natural local area which has a shared outlook such as Dishley or Thorpeacre.

Ministers have said that communities will be able to propose the boundaries for neighbourhoods, with the help of the relevant council to mediate if necessary. I hope that helps.

Nicky Nicky Morgan MPMP for Loughborough, Shepshed, Quorn, Barrow, Sileby, Hathern, Mountsorrel Castle and the Wolds villagesParliamentary Private Secretary to Rt Hon David Willetts MPTel: 020 7219 7224 (Westminster)/01509 262723 (Constituency)

We are planning to arrange this meeting as soon as possible, probably on a Friday night and certainly before 17th October.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how you would like to see the meeting organised, please do let me know.

Regards,

Patrick Keogh (Secretary)