

**Supporting
documentation
accompanying the Letters
of Objection from the
Save our Greenbelt Group
submitted to Rotherham
Metropolitan Borough
Council**

Friday 16 September 2011

Introduction

Rotherham Action Group consists of members of the local community who are strongly opposed to building on greenbelt land, not only in our particular area of Greasbrough but throughout the whole of the Borough of Rotherham.

In 2009, under the then Regional Spatial Strategy, there were plans to build 3600 houses. The RSS has recently been abolished but, from 2011 onwards, there are still plans to build 2600 houses on the greenbelt and arable farmland known as the Bassingthorpe Farm Development, which is approximately the size of 500 football pitches!

As local residents, who for the most part were born in Rotherham and lived here as children and now adults with families of our own, we feel that a development of this size will effectively kill off our precious community and turn it into an urban sprawl with no identity whatsoever. Our local wildlife population and open recreational and communal spaces, together with ancient woodlands will suffer greatly under this proposed scheme. Bassingthorpe Farm is a self-supporting, working farm, having been worked by the same family for over 3 generations, and now going into the 4th. Both the farm and all the farmland in the development will be lost forever. The majority of the land that it is proposed to be built upon is prime, arable farmland, which is and will continue to be a valuable asset not only to Rotherham, but to food production for the Country in future years.

It must be realised that nothing will revive Rotherham Town Centre in its current form, certainly not linking the Town with the surrounding areas. A new plan must and should be worked out for Rotherham to create a workable solution for the Town and its surrounding areas, which, although not designated areas of natural beauty are, nevertheless, very precious to those of us who live here. The Borough of Rotherham is unique in having such lovely countryside in and around the Town. It must be protected and preserved for future generations.

Collectively, we all feel that the damage to the environment would be huge and totally irreversible and we will continue our fight against such wilful vandalism of our countryside and extinction of its wildlife and biodiversity.

Save Our Greenbelt 16.09.11

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