

Press release from East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum

The following press release reports on one of the key actions by East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum in response to South Tyneside Council's Consultation on a new Local Plan.

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SoS to Government - *Please Save South Tyneside's Green Belt!*

East Boldon Forum has written to the Secretary of State to ask that the Green Belt is taken into account and given protection when housing targets are set.

South Tyneside Council is consulting on plans to allow 3,000 houses to be built on Green Belt land, including areas in and around the villages of Whitburn, Cleadon, East Boldon and Fellgate.

The Council have stated that there are insufficient brown field sites to accommodate the number of houses envisaged by the Government's formula for calculating the number of houses required, and it is not possible to make a special case so that the Green Belt can be protected.

Roy Wilburn, Vice Chairman of the East Boldon Forum, told members at a recent meeting, ***'to build on the green belt is wrong for so many reasons. We are facing a Climate Change Emergency; Wild Life Habitat is disappearing before our eyes and Food Security is now a major concern. The Government's formula relies on out-of-date information and we risk losing some of the most iconic and valuable green belt land in the Borough'***.

East Boldon Forum have made the case that long established villages do not have the infrastructure and services to accommodate the major house building proposed by the Council and that increased traffic will cause major problems for residents should the proposals go ahead.

Mr Wilburn added: ***'The recently approved Neighbourhood Plan sought to protect the Green Belt and was supported by so many people. The Council's proposal rides roughshod over this and puts forward many of the proposals rejected by residents in an earlier local plan consultation. It's not surprising that many people feel that they are powerless and not listened to'***.

The Forum, however, is encouraging residents **not to give in** and to respond to the latest proposal by the deadline of 14th August.