

Save our Green Belt – Help Required ... Again!!

Through the work of **ITPAS**, as part of Wirral Green Space Alliance (WGSA), being successful at the Leverhulme Estates' Planning Inquiry followed by the Local Plan Examination, we were close to getting the Regeneration-led **Local Plan** adopted with its **Green Belt** protection. But this is now in jeopardy through the Government's proposed **Housing & Planning Reforms**.

We have prepared a 2-page synopsis of what Proposals mean for Wirral, outlining the issues and our concerns (File: 'STATEMENT FROM WGSA- V2 - JNH Edits', attached + on Website), giving a LINK to the Government's Consultation website – **Deadline for Response: 24 September**.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

Responses can be through the Online system, by Post (Planning Policy Consultation Team, Planning Directorate – Policy Division, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Floor 3, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF) or better still by a short **Email** to: PlanningPolicyConsultation@communities.gov.uk

WGSA and **ITPAS** will in addition be addressing the highly technical 106-Question Survey but once again we are calling on your support, where your individual words, based on the themes we have set out, should carry great weight and hopefully improve the **Reforms**.

Please help us - make your points – make a difference !

If we get the current Local Plan 'adopted' in the next few months on the present basis (as we are in the 'fortunate' position of being in the final 'Examination' stage), our hard-pressed Council would have to commence a **Plan Review** on the basis of the new mandated regime, involving not the now-accepted figure of **4,500** new homes within the 16-year Plan Period, not even the inflated figure of **14,000** new homes in our Brownfield-only emerging Local Plan, but over **28,000** additional homes to cater for 60,000+ new Residents, increasing Wirral's Population by 20+%, with no clarity from where such numbers would come or be employed, recalling that between 2011 and 2021 Wirral's Population increased by just **417** people!!

Change? Yes but ... Change for the Better, please!

During the Election campaign Labour promised to introduce "a better system, that builds homes local people can afford, delivers new infrastructure and improves green spaces." They also promised to redefine parts of the Green Belt as 'Grey Belt', which would include "lower quality" land such as petrol stations and carparks. It now appears that 'Grey-Belt' could include previously undeveloped Green Belt next to a Settlement or Road, or any land which a Developer successfully argues is so-called 'weakly performing' Green Belt, a term undefined in Legislation or Planning Guidance but used by developers and their advisers.

ITPAS is also calling on the **4 Wirral MPs** to back and promote Wirral's Brownfield-only, Regeneration-led emerging Local Plan and to oppose the Government's mandated Proposals to apply a developer-inspired, ill-thought-out, 'one-size-(doesn't)-fit-all' strategy to the whole Country, which excludes proper Local Participation and would be particularly inappropriate and destructive for Wirral, and overload already hard-pressed Public Services.

Please send a copy of your Response(s) to Planning@ITPAS.org , your Local Councillors and the 4 Wirral MPs. **Many thanks.**