



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Inspector Jill Kingaby
C/O Growth Point
Nottingham City Council
Loxley House
Station Street
Nottingham
NG2 3NG

December 2013

Dear Miss Kingaby,

As you know, there is considerable opposition from residents living in, or near, Toton as well as other campaigners who oppose housing development on Green Belt land in Broxtowe, to the Borough Council's proposals to agree to at least 500 houses on the land at Toton.

At least two senior Borough Councillors have publicly stated that the Council has no other option because of indications and comments made by you during the recent public inquiry.

Specifically, Councillor David Watts was quoted in the Nottingham Post on 9th December as follows, "The planning inspector said that we had to give a figure and 500 was the minimum we could get away with".

At a public meeting I held in Toton on Saturday 7th December Councillor Steve Barber, Chair of Broxtowe Borough Council's Development Control Committee and Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board, said that during a session on Thursday 7th November, "the Inspector said Toton seems a good place for growth" and during that same session you had apparently said, "it (the Aligned Core Strategy) is likely to fail if Toton does not go in".

You will recall that on Thursday November 7th the afternoon session was scheduled to finish at 5pm. You suggested the session should continue beyond 5pm; I explained I had to leave as I had another engagement in Boston, Lincolnshire. Mr Ken Mafham, explained he had to leave at 5.30. There has been an allegation that you specifically said you wanted to consider growth at Toton in this extended session. This is neither my recollection nor my constituency manager's, Rebecca Maher. If we had thought Toton was to be discussed in any detail we would have asked for either an adjournment or Rebecca would have stayed, given my written submissions on the Green Belt land at Toton.

Could you please confirm your recollection as to what was said about the extension of the session after 5pm. Would you also be so good as to confirm the weight of written versus oral submissions.

I would be grateful if you could also confirm or deny whether on that Thursday, or at any other time, you said any of the comments attributed to you by Councillors Watts and Barber. In any event I seek full disclosure of what you have said to representatives of the Borough Council about the land at Toton either during the recent hearing, during the period of the hearing and thereafter.

Anna Soubry, Member of Parliament for Broxtowe

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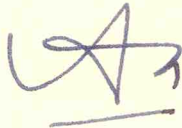
You need to be aware that Broxtowe Borough Council's controlling group is saying that you, the Inspector, made it clear in public that you were going to find in favour of at least 500 houses on Toton's Green Belt land. That you have indicated in the clearest of terms that if that land did not come in the ACS, the entire strategy would be failed by you. According to Councillor Barber, as a result of your comments, the controlling group "panicked", met in secret and decided to agree to at least 500 houses on Toton's Green Belt land.

I know you will be fully aware of how serious these allegations are, I would be grateful for your response.

Finally, I am extremely concerned, on the basis that Councillor Barber's comments are accurate, that notwithstanding the written and oral evidence I had given to the Inquiry, it was extended on Thursday November 7th, and in my absence Green Belt land at Toton which had been removed from the ACS was in effect put back in. You will appreciate that some are inferring this was done deliberately in my absence and again I believe it is important that the truth is established.

The public meeting on Saturday 7th December was attended by approximately 200 Toton residents. They are completely opposed to housing development on their Green Belt land and firmly of the view they have been denied any opportunity to have their say. I very much hope they get the opportunity to be properly heard.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AS', with a horizontal line underneath.

Anna Soubry MP

Cc. Eric Pickles MP