

# URGENT!

## YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE IS BEING THREATENED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT

*Please take a few minutes and complete the enclosed  
Consultation Form*

A recent survey, reported in the press and printed on the back of this page, has shown that the Government consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was so poorly communicated that the majority of the local population only became aware of its existence through local action but were left with very little time to respond. Those of you who did respond found the language and mechanisms for doing so very complex.

For these reasons we have produced our own consultation form, specifically on the future of the Green Belt around Bristol, to give you the opportunity to express your views on how you would like to see it used.

We aim to gain feedback from as many South Gloucestershire residents as possible. Your views will be collated and presented to South Gloucestershire Council, the Press/Media and our MPs.

In the Spring of 2009 the Government will be publishing the final version of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) so our aim is to publish the results of our Consultation long before the final decisions have been taken. We plan to hold a Conference at the Council Offices, Civic Centre, Kingswood, early in 2009, to which the public, a well-known celebrity, cross-party MPs, South Gloucestershire Council, The National Trust, and other wildlife/conservation organisations will be invited. We will publicise final details of this event nearer the date.

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

**RSS:** Regional Spatial Strategy. England is divided into 8 regions, each with their own un-elected Regional Assembly, which is an arm of the Government, ours being the South West (from Swindon to the Scilly Isles). The RSS will set a regional framework from now to 2026 about "where things go", what the scale of development should be, and the links between broad issues such as healthcare, education and crime, as well as basic infrastructure such as transport.

**Urban Extension:** High-density housing, often of 3-4 floors (maybe more?) at the edge of urban areas. THIS IS WHAT IS PLANNED ON ENTIRELY GREEN BELT LAND EAST OF KINGSWOOD.

**Green Belt:** It is a planning policy, the fundamental aim of which is to prevent urban sprawl and keep the land permanently open. This can shape the pattern of urban development plans. Green Belt protects the countryside – agriculture, forestry etc. and encourages more sustainable patterns of urban development.

**Greenfield:** Land which has never previously been developed or fully restored, former waste disposal, landfill sites or mineral extraction land. This could be both within and outside built-up areas.

**Brownfield:** Previously developed land.

*For further information please contact Jacquie Stephens, Chair of Save Our Green Spaces Campaign Group. Telephone 01179141660*

[www.saveourgreenspaces.org](http://www.saveourgreenspaces.org)



## ***Results of a survey taken in Warmley and surrounding areas showed that . . .***

- only 6% of people had heard about these proposals for mass house-building 6 months ago;
- only 30% of people understood what the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was;
- 88% thought any development should be on brownfield sites;
- 99% thought that green belt should be better protected;
- 61% found out about the RSS proposals from the Save Our Green Spaces campaign group.

## ***Did you know that . . .***

- there are currently 256,500 residents in South Gloucestershire;
- there are 1,946 empty properties in South Gloucestershire;
- in the 2nd quarter of 2008, South Gloucestershire Council accepted 54 households (0.5 per 1000 households) as being homeless and in priority need;
- at the end of the same quarter, there were 315 households in temporary accommodation. Of these, only 7 households were in bed and breakfast accommodation.

## ***Do the survey results and above facts indicate a need for an urban extension of 8,000 homes East of Kingswood and the destruction of our Green Belt?***

We think not!

