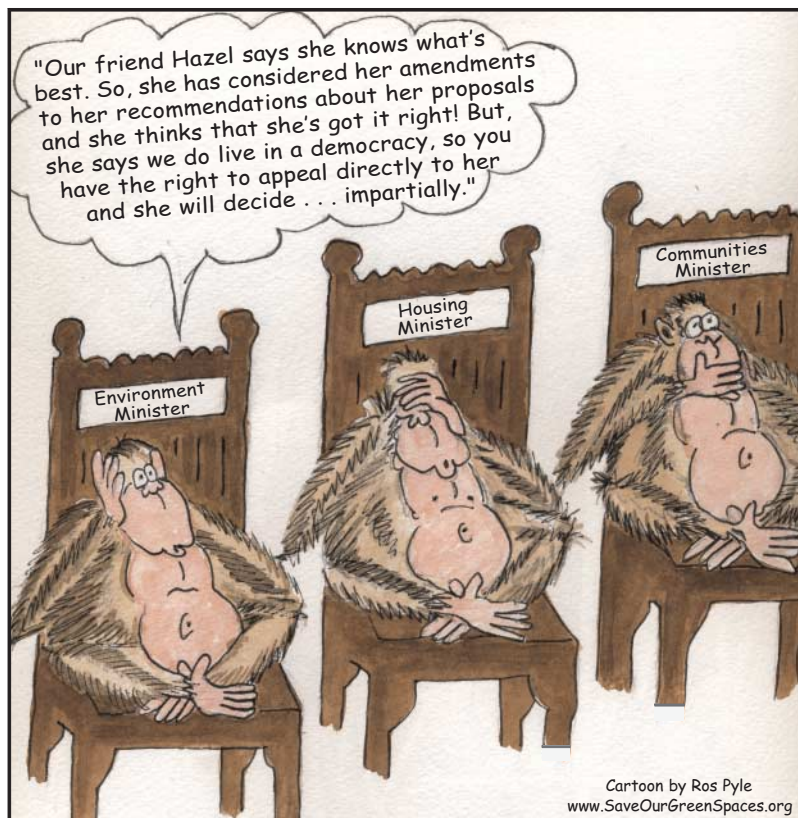


Save Our Green Spaces



!!! PRESS RELEASE !!!

For immediate release



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SURVEY SHOWS THAT WE NEED OUR SAY ON OUR FUTURE

The Government has presented us all with the Regional Spatial Strategy which outlines its housing development plans till 2026. Despite their spending huge sums of money promoting this document, early results of a door-to-door survey show that it was mainly the efforts of the "Save Our Green Spaces" campaign group that notified residents of the biggest potential development to hit Greater Bristol over the next 25 years!

On the strength of this information, Save Our Green Spaces has prepared its own easy-to-understand consultation and is taking it to the people of South Gloucestershire to get their opinions on what happens to, what is after all, their green belt.

We need to develop our area without wrecking it and, for the sake of everyone, further consultation is needed before these life-changing decisions are made.

Details of our recent survey can be found overleaf

What our survey found . . .

Results from an extensive door-to-door, interview-based survey held across Warmley, Siston and Oldland, conducted by Save Our Green Spaces has found that:

- Though 89% of households knew of the proposals for mass housing development in the area, only 1% (i.e. one person) had found out from official Regional Assembly or Government Office for the South West sources – despite both organisations continually claiming to have consulted widely and spending a fortune in the process.
- Although a recent parliamentary written answer indicated that the South West Regional Spatial Strategy had elicited a massive 35,000+ responses (nationally the largest ever response to such a government sponsored public consultation) in the West of England, government agencies could only manage to tell one member of the general public about the biggest single initiative for the development of Greater Bristol over the next 25 years!
- Whilst 6% of those surveyed said that they had found out about the plans from South Gloucestershire District Council sources, ten times as many people (61%) had found out about the development plans directly through the voluntary efforts of the Siston & Warmley Save Our Green Spaces campaign group.
- 28% had found out from other sources, including political parties, word of mouth and campaign group signage. (17% had found out first from media coverage of our campaign activities.)
- 11% only found out about the development plans within the last month (when SOGS began leafleting door to door), 50% found out within the last 3 months (when SOGS began putting up posters), 21% 6 months ago (when SOGS was first set up) and only 6% knew for longer (when both the Regional Assembly & South Gloucestershire were "consulting").
- 88% of respondents thought that any large scale house building developments should go onto brownfield sites (i.e. previously built on land – Bristol City already manages to get 90% of new builds onto previously developed land.)
- Finally, a whopping 99% of people surveyed thought that the Green Belt should be properly, legally protected (at the moment there are only planning guidelines and Ian Wright, the Housing Minister thinks that even these are old fashioned and past their sell by date!)

Jacquie Stevens

Chair, Save Our Green Spaces

If you would like to discuss any points raised in this Press Release then please contact Steve Reade on 01179 673363 or email stlister1962@yahoo.co.uk

