

From: P [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2021 11:58
To: clerk <clerk@shinfieldparish.gov.uk>
Subject: Greenbelt for Reading

9.5

Dear Parish Clerk

I am contacting Parish Councils around the outskirts of Reading to see if there is support for the idea of a Green belt around Reading. As Reading grows it increasingly encroaches on the countryside around it. I would propose that where development for housing is needed it is on brownfield, not greenfield sites.

The town centre has recently been severely depleted in terms of shops and offices. The Covid pandemic has led to many more people working from home, at least part time, and shopping on the internet. This in turn has led to less need for carparking. These brownfield sites are ideally placed for a different kind of urban regeneration. More single person accommodation, particularly flats and apartments, near to transport hubs and leisure facilities are increasingly more appropriate for people at an early and a later stage in life.

But what is being built is acre upon acre of estates full of 3 or 4 bedroom houses at eye watering prices, suitable for families selling up in London and wishing to move "to the country". Where I live in Arborfield we agreed to allow this kind of housing on brownfield sites such as Arborfield Garrison. But no sooner have 3,500 new such houses been built than plans are being circulated for another 4,000 houses, this time on farmland.

Then there is the growing existential threat posed by the "Climate Emergency". Trees, fields, flood plains and meadows will help store carbon, manage flooding, encourage biodiversity and also provide a place for town dwellers to enjoy some fresh air and outdoor recreation.

Last, but not least, I would point to the current problems surrounding the food we eat. In a post Brexit world we need to be growing more of our own food. Locally grown food has a smaller carbon footprint but it can also be grown in a more sustainable, more organic way than under glass on the continent of Europe. With the right encouragement small community farms could get people actively involved in working the land, with huge potential benefits for their health, and the health of the environment.

I am looking for signatures on a petition here:
www.change.org/greenbelt4Reading

I am also looking for support, feedback and ideas on a Facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/CleanGreenandMean/>

In light of all of the above I think that now is the time for Politicians, Community leaders and Councillors around Reading to start formulating plans for preserving, protecting and enhancing our green heritage.

Thank you.

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows