

## MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

### AGM Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Chaired by our Honorary President Gary Mabbutt, MBE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 8 pm in the North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green

The formal notice of the meeting, agenda and financial statements are available on our website.

Guest speaker: Elizabeth Hamilton, Trustee, CPRE Herts

### Membership is Now Due for 2023

Make your voice heard by strengthening our membership by completing the form below or preferably by setting up an annual payment through our website at [www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk](http://www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk)

With annual subscriptions only £1 per head, donations would be greatly appreciated to cover the extra costs of engaging professionals to help fight to protect the area we love.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

To: **NMDGBS**, c/o North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green AL9 7PG

Please join or renew the annual subscription for ..... member(s) of my family / household for the calendar year 2023.

Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Additional Family Members .....

Address .....

Town & Postcode .....

Email .....

Cheque (payable to **NMDGBS**) enclosed for £ ..... being £ ..... annual subscription at £1 per person  
and / or £ ..... voluntary contribution to funds.

OR by online payment or Direct Debit at: [www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk](http://www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk)

OR by Standing Order or Bank Transfer to: TSB, Sort Code: 30 – 16 – 64, Account No: 00098459.



*Please tick box if paying by standing order and return form with your address and payment details)*

## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTE**

After a fairly quiet start to 2022, the last few months have been busy.

The Local Plan which had been largely on hold (local councillors sought clarification from central government about the practical impact of various ministerial statements concerning the powers of the planning inspectorate and protection of the Green Belt) suddenly took off in late December as the Council moved to consult on what are called Main Modifications to the original draft plan. These offer some respite for the Green Belt but still accept what we believe is a total target for the Borough which substantially exceeds locally generated "need". We have made this and other points in response to the consultation, now closed, and await, without much optimism, the Inspector's response sometime after the local elections in May.

That said, the mood music has changed. In early December, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Local Communities issued a letter to members of Parliament setting out his proposals for changes to the rules about local targets and protection of the Green Belt.

"The effect of these changes will be to make absolutely clear that Local Housing Need should always be a starting point - but no more than that - and importantly, that areas will not be expected to meet this need where they are subject to genuine constraints. We will be clear that local planning authorities are not expected to review the Green Belt to deliver housing."

But! As councillors noted in voting last December, these proposals and commitments are not yet in force and may or may not be in place in time to affect the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan. Please continue to put pressure on our local councillors and MP to oppose development on the Green Belt.

We have also faced a rash of planning applications from developers seeking to anticipate the plan. Last month we joined with CPRE Herts and a newly formed local action Group, Brookmans Park Action Group, to oppose a developer seeking permission to develop land north of Bradmore Way, a site not recommended by the council in the Local Plan. We await the planning inspector's decision.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Our Green Belt Society has been in existence since 1976 and has at present around 1000 members who pay an annual subscription of £1 and make donations. Thank you. Without you we wouldn't exist. We are delighted that our numbers have recovered after the pandemic years, but there is no room for complacency. Please renew your membership using the form overleaf or more preferably by setting up an annual payment through our website [www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk](http://www.northmymmsgreenbelt.org.uk). And please tell your friends and neighbours. We will continue to keep members up to date through our email newsletters. Please make sure we have your correct email address.

For the latest updates as they happen, please join us on social media by following [@greenbeltsoc](https://twitter.com/greenbeltsoc) on Twitter or joining our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/greenbeltsociety](https://www.facebook.com/greenbeltsociety).

We need to draw on our membership in a more regular way; we need eyes and ears in the community and we need to strengthen our committee, which meets monthly, with two or three new members. Can you join us? If you are interested in a greater involvement in this aspect of your community, please get in touch either by speaking to a committee member at the AGM or through our website.

**Please join us at the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**