

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

AGM Monday 23rd March 2026

Chaired by our President Gary Mabbutt MBE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 23 March 2026 at 8 pm in the North Mymms Memorial Hall, 36 Station Road, Welham Green

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

There will be a presentation about local development and the new Local Plan with opportunity for questions and discussions. Come along and have your say!

Membership is Now Due for 2026

Make your voice heard by strengthening our membership. 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. See payment options below:

Online - Pay Once or Setup a Direct Debit:

Visit our website at:

greenbeltsociety.org.uk/memberships/

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Bank: TSB Bank, Account Name: NMDGBS, Sort Code: 30-16-64, Account No: 00098459

For Cash, Cheque or Manual Setup of Standing Order:

Post / Drop this 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 2026.

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Please tick box if paying by standing order and return form with your payment details.

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

The year has again been turbulent for the Green Belt.

Although the earlier part of the year was quieter than anticipated, recent months have seen an acceleration in the assault on the Green Belt at national and local level with a flurry of planning applications, decisions and consultation documents.

Our February members' email newsletter drew attention to several of these issues and urged members to make their views known. Here are two where the consultation periods are still open.

THE NEW LOCAL PLAN

Most significantly for our Parish, Welwyn Hatfield Council have launched a consultation on the New Local Plan which envisages substantial new development in and around Welham Green, Brookmans Park, and Little Heath. Already in North Mymms, the Local Plan has removed eight sites from the Green Belt for over 800 dwellings. The new plan proposes a further six sites to be taken out of the Green Belt for over a thousand dwellings. This needs a truly local response.

Details of the consultation are at <https://www.welhat.gov.uk/ourlocalplan>. A number of information sessions are planned locally – please visit <https://northmymms-pc.gov.uk/news/save-our-villages>. Our AGM will also provide an opportunity for discussion. **The consultation closes on 26th March 2026.**

DOES “GREEN” BECOME “GREY”?

In December 2024 a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced the disturbing and confusing concept of “grey belt land”. Only a year later the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced yet another a major revision of the NPPF including tweaks to what “grey belt” is supposed to mean.

The existing concept of “grey belt” was used to justify the recent approval for 80 dwellings on land north of Pooleys Lane in Welham Green. If the proposed change goes through as currently drafted, Green Belt protections will be weakened again, and it will be even more difficult to defend against development in the Green Belt in North Mymms.

The consultation ends on 10th March. Please add your voice to the efforts of the CPRE by visiting <https://www.cpre.org.uk/action/national-planning-policy-framework-respond-to-the-consultation/>.

THANKS, AND RETIREMENTS

Sadly, we are to lose the services of our planning adviser Jed Griffiths who after working with us for more than ten years will be retiring at the end of March. We have been most fortunate in having Jed's advice and support over this difficult time for the Green Belt; it has been a pleasure to work with him.

After more years' service than even she can remember, Claire Taylor, our Honorary Vice President and my predecessor as Chair, is calling it a day and stepping down from the Committee. She deserves our considerable thanks for her long dedication to the Society and not least for her leadership in the successful fight against the proposed incinerator at New Barnfield. We shall miss her trenchant advice.

I too am stepping down after 12 years as the Society's Chairman though like Claire before me, I shall take up a “back bench” role on the committee.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on Monday 23rd March 2026 at 8pm.
Thank you for your support. Please continue by renewing your membership.