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Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, c/o Save our Green Spaces, Suite 221, No. 3 Edgar Buildings, George Street, Bath BA1 2FJ

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www.saveourgreenspaces.org

To email a letter to Hazel Blears / your MP / your local paper, visit the website. You can also find out about local campaign groups and what you can do to help Save Our Green Spaces:

- ← The Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
- ← Your MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1 0AA

If you decide to write to the Secretary of State please use the three points set out overleaf, this will help ensure there is a consistent message going to the Ministers and MPs about the changes that need to be made. Also tell them why the green belt and green space in the region is important to you and your family (sample letter on website).
Post your letter to:

Inform the government and your elected representatives that you are completely opposed to any development that involves green spaces and green belt around our towns and cities. They should be fully aware that it will be a **key issue** when you next vote.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ← Fill in and return the card attached to this leaflet
- ← Write to the Secretary of State stating your objections and requesting a reply (sample letter on website).
- ← Copy the letter to your MP.
- ← Copy the letter to your local Councillor.
- ← Send a letter to your regular newspaper.
- ← Contact your Councillor and MP at their surgery and ask for their support.
- ← Join your local campaign group.

SAVE OUR GREEN SPACES



500,000 new homes coming to the south west. Find out how to help save **your** green spaces

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Government is proposing to build 500,000 new houses in the South West of England. Half of these are destined for green spaces and green belt around our towns and cities, sprawling over an area equivalent to 15,000 football pitches.

New housing is required but the number of houses proposed is too high and has been based on figures that are, at best, wildly optimistic.

We want the Government to re-consider the Regional Spatial Strategy and:

- **Commit to regenerating urban areas and using previously developed land first.**
- **Ensure that the priority for new housing is affordable homes and that these are fully funded.**
- **Reduce the number of new houses allocated and remove the need for a minimum number of houses.**

WHY CARE?

The South West's green spaces are a precious, finite resource.

They produce food, support wild animals and plants, give us free leisure and provide environmental services such as clean, cool air, flood control and drainage.

However they are under significant threat. The number of houses that the Government's imposing on the South West's green spaces is so vast that it would form a continuous terrace from John O'Groats to Lands End! Imagine the devastating impact that would have on amenities, for both urban and rural residents.



SOME BACKGROUND

The Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a bleak vision for the future. It imposes a rigid framework about where things go and what the scale of the development will be. Central government feels it knows best what should happen in our region. But we disagree; from local councils, NGOs, community groups to all the people who use or appreciate green space.

We recognise that there is a need for more housing, however there are almost 1 million empty homes in the UK, surely we should start by using these, then previously developed land, before irrevocably destroying green space.

Local Government, e.g. your local elected City Council have had a chance to comment, but many have had their considerable concerns about housing numbers and infrastructure ignored. Central Government seems determined to push these massive levels of development, and is reported to be prepared to force Councils to accept their plans by threatening withdrawal of Council control over where housing is placed if their full co-operation is not given. The democracy gap here is outrageous - our elected government is not listening to us.

The Government has already consulted on this. But it's not too late to have your say. We are mobilising local interest groups to take small, simple, but united action, to force the Government to listen.



WHO ARE WE?

Save our Green Spaces is an alliance of community groups, environmental

campaigns and organisations from across the South West, committed to protecting the countryside for future generations.

Find out more, join your local group, register for the newsletter, watch the video at:

www.saveourgreenspaces.org

Dear Hazel Blears

Please re-think your housing policy for our green spaces.

As someone who cares about the future of the South West, I oppose the plans for large scale housing development in our countryside as proposed in the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy.

As I am sure you are aware from the 35,000 responses you received regarding the Proposed Changes, people are very worried about this Strategy and the impact it will have. Specifically I would ask you to:

- Commit to regenerating urban areas and using previously developed land first.
- Ensure that the priority for new housing is affordable homes and that these are fully funded.
- Reduce the number of new houses allocated and remove the need for a minimum number of houses.

Yours sincerely,

Signed _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please add more comments below.

I would like this letter copied to my MP _____

I would like this letter copied to my local paper _____

Please detach this card and send it to the address overleaf. Your card will be delivered to Westminster by Save Our Green Spaces.

We will only use your details to send you information and updates about the campaign. Your details will not be shared with any other company or organisation. If you would prefer not to receive further information, please tick here