

Green Belt



- ◆ Green Belt will be a major consideration for us, as our villages are tightly bounded by Green Belt
- ◆ Solihull Council (SMBC) have said that they will be reviewing Green Belt as part of their update to the Local Plan

- ◆ Most changes to Green Belt can only be made by Local Councils (SMBC) **BUT**
- ◆ We **CAN** identify Green Belt land as a 'Rural Exceptions' site to build affordable housing for local people
- ◆ We **CAN** actively contribute to, and strongly influence, discussions / decisions

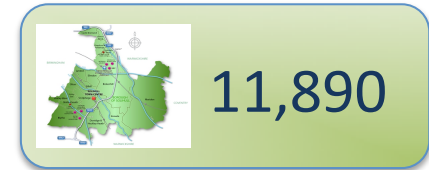
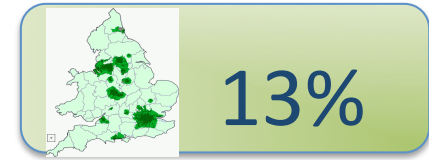


Background: Green Belt covers about 13% of the land area in England. The aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines five main purposes of green belt, to:

1. check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
2. prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
3. assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
4. preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
5. assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Local authorities with Green Belts in their area are required to establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans that set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. Once established, these boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.



Key data:

Solihull has 11,890 hectares of green belt. There was a very small reduction of 40 hectares in 2014/15 due to:

1. Solihull Local Plan Adoption, Dec 2013
2. Solihull Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocations Plan, Dec 2014
3. Removal of new Green Belt sites in the Local Plan after legal challenge and Court of Appeal decision, Dec 2014

The Telegraph website has an “interactive map” of green belt in England as at November 2012.

Details of designated green belt by local authority is included in the annex to the ‘Local Planning Authority Green Belt: England 2014/15 statistics’, October 2015.

Government policy on protection of green belt is set out in chapter 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and on the web *Planning Practice Guidance*.

What can we do through a NP?

A Government consultation in Dec 2015 (closed 22/2/16) proposed amending policy to allow starter homes to be built in Green Belt when a site has been identified in a Neighbourhood Plan, and on some brownfield sites in Green Belt.

Should growth proposals be deemed necessary affecting Green Belt around our villages, we would expect to play a key role, working closely with SMBC, in determining the scale, location and affect on our Area. Questions would be eg:

- ? What importance do we place on maintaining a green barrier between our Area and the main Solihull conurbation?
- ? Are there any areas of Green Belt we may consider as “less valuable”?

Your views :

- *‘Green belt should be protected.’*
- *‘If as a forum we are to take our responsibilities seriously it is inevitable that some green belt will have to be released to housing development.’*
- *‘I would ask that you stress the importance of professionally farmed land and agriculture generally to our sustainable future.’*