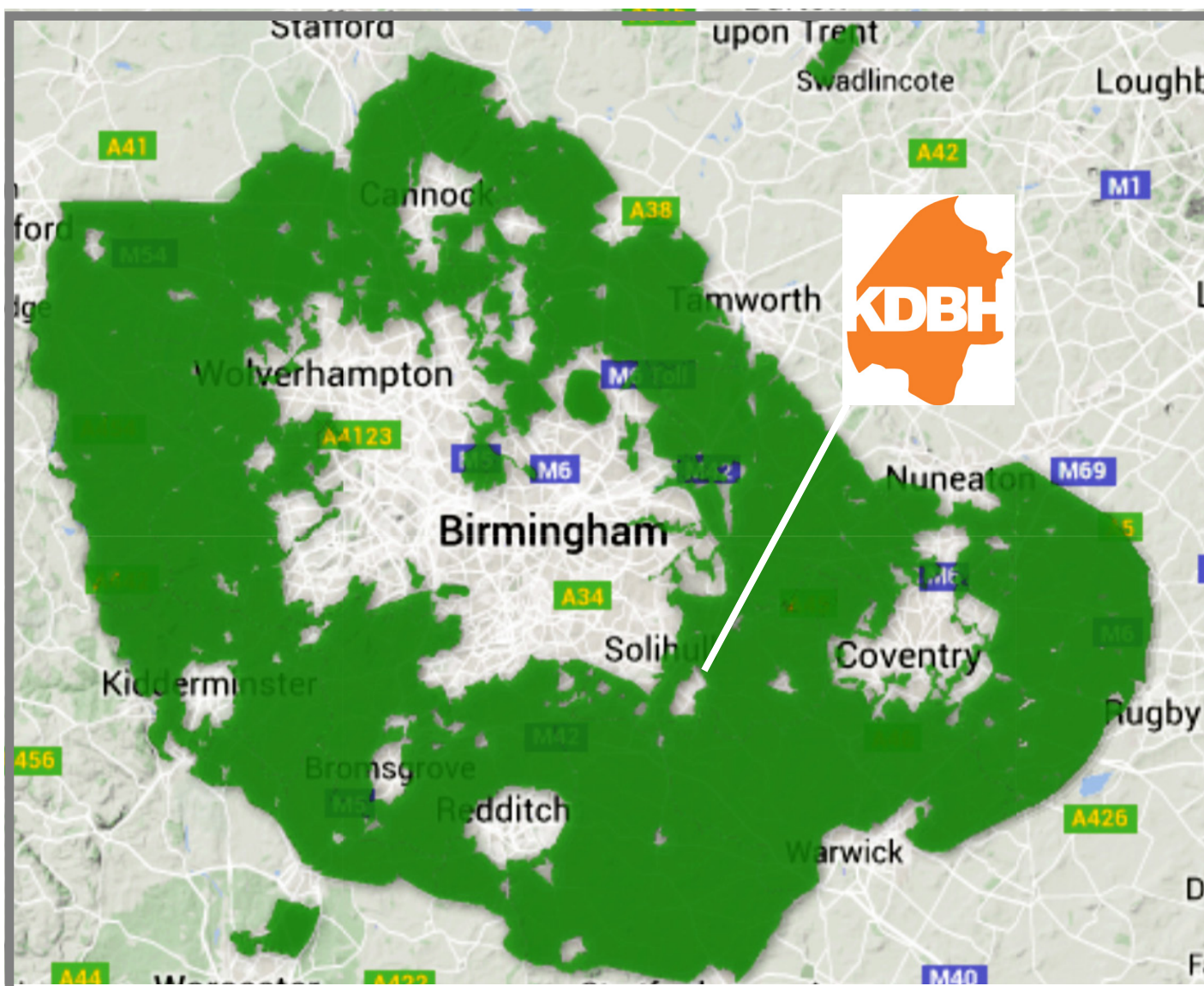


# Planning Themes: Green Belt



- 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



- *"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."*



Solihull has 11,890 hectares of green belt. A small reduction of 40 hectares in 2014/15 included removal of new Green Belt sites in the Local Plan after legal challenge and Court of Appeal decision, Dec 2014.

Local authorities with Green Belts must establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans that set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy.

These boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.



What importance do we place on maintaining a green barrier between our Area and the main Solihull conurbation?

Are there any areas of the Green Belt we may consider as 'less valuable'?

A Government consultation proposes 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.

**neighbourhood  
planning**

In the event of any growth proposals 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.