



FOCUS

Newsletter from Rushcliffe Liberal Democrats Summer 2013

When is Enough, Enough?

Sharphill - Council Plan proposes an increase to 1,750.

The existing permission is to build 1,200 houses. 300 to the east of Melton Road and 900 to the west: on fields between Melton Road and the start of the slope up to the Wood.

To build a proposed **additional 550 (45% more)** would entail building on more land:

- close to the Wood (which is a designated Local Nature Reserve);
- closer to the junction with Musters Road and on pitches which were planned for public use
- taking a road round the south of the wood parallel with the ring road and building on fields to the west of the Wood.

Read more on inside pages.

What do you think?

Some local residents have told us:

*The 1200 houses already planned is too many; this is already the same as four times the total of Harrow and Repton Roads (305 houses). These won't be the low cost houses which we need. We have been betrayed; this is not what was promised. **Nick Repton Rd.***

*I am angry that the requirements of the last Public Inquiry are being ignored before building has started. 550 more is phase 2 building on both sides of the Wood. What after that? This cynical process greedily eats up green belt and public spaces for the benefit of private profits. If housing is the priority, houses should be put where the business park was to be. **Guy South Rd***

*This will affect our welfare and that of our children. The last green lungs for local residents; our green spaces would be lost. I hear skylarks up there each summer; little chance in future. **Kirsty Musters Rd***

*The future of the Wood is at stake. This special nature reserve is enjoyed by many. Surrounded on two sides by housing and cats, the wildlife will fade and natural regeneration will cease. **Chris Boundary Rd.***

*Sharphill is very special skyline – the highest hill to the south of the City, visible from afar with views across West Bridgford. The wildlife needs space. **NO BUILDING FURTHER UP THE SLOPE and NO BUILDING AROUND THE WEST SIDE OF THE WOOD.** **Laraine Musters Rd***

Your views are important. Do you support or oppose more houses? Tell us what you think.

There is one public exhibition/consultation event organised by the Council. This is at Edwalton Golf Club on Monday 1st July open from 3pm until 8pm. Rushcliffe Council Planners set a tight window for consulting residents – ends first week in August.

Send your views before it is too late. Write to the Leader of the Council, Neil Clarke and/or the Chief Executive Allen Graham. Rushcliffe Council Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, NG2 5FE or call 0115 981 9911 and/or elected representatives for the area.

Focus Team - Working for you

Rushcliffe's Conservative Cabinet Plan

The Council, like others, is required to have a Core Strategy. This is a plan for the period up to 2028 which designates land on which it envisages housing can be built. In December 2011, the Council approved a plan for 9,600 homes, including the existing substantial plans for Bingham, Cotgrave Pit, RAF Newton, Sharphill, Clifton Pastures and additional housing in many of the smaller settlements.

However the Planning Inspector and other local councils considered that this was not an adequate share of the 'required' housing for the principal urban area. Hence Rushcliffe has been obliged to increase the plan by an additional 3,550 homes which have to be adjacent to the Principal Urban Area.

The proposals were approved at the Cabinet Meeting on 14 May. You can see the reports at: <http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningpolicy/furtherproposalsforhousingdevelopment/>. At least read the "Further proposals for housing development". This describes the reasons, the 3 proposed areas, the ways in which the Council Officers want your views channelled. Pages 13 to 15 are specific to Sharphill.

You will see in the report that the Rushcliffe proposals for the additional 3,550 homes are to be:

1. South of Clifton – around an additional 500 homes within the current proposed allocation of 2,500 homes.
2. East of Gamston – a new strategic mixed used development allocation, including the delivery of around 2,500 homes by 2028, and with capacity to provide around a further 1,500 homes post 2028.
3. **Edwalton/Sharphill – around an additional 550 homes** within and adjacent to the current proposed allocation, an increase of 45% on the existing proposal for around 1,200 homes.

The proposal involves marginally increasing density on the existing allocation and expanding the development area to include:

- land that is currently proposed to be part of Sharphill Y i.e. close to and on both sides of the Wood
- land to the east of Melton Road adjacent to the existing southern edge of Edwalton.

Background on Sharphill

In 2006, an Inspector raised concerns about the proposed development at Sharphill. It did not go ahead. In 2009 an Inspector accepted that what was proposed was inappropriate development in the Green Belt but allowed the development **to up to 1200 homes with mitigation measures for the wood and wildlife.**

Your Lib Dem Councillors proposed at a Council meeting in 2009 that the money from the sale of Sharphill land should be used to improve roads and infrastructure for the benefit of the residents of WB and Edwalton. This was rejected by the Council.

Plans for a Melton Road Underpass were changed to reduce costs. There will now be 3 surface traffic light road junctions.

We are disappointed that despite the verdicts of two inquiries limiting development, RBC proposes to build 550 more houses.

The proposal for extra housing at Sharphill is at one exhibition/public consultation event only.

At Edwalton Golf Club on Monday 1 July between 3pm & 8pm.

You are encouraged to attend and give your views. Send your views before the end of July.

You can write to the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and any elected representative.



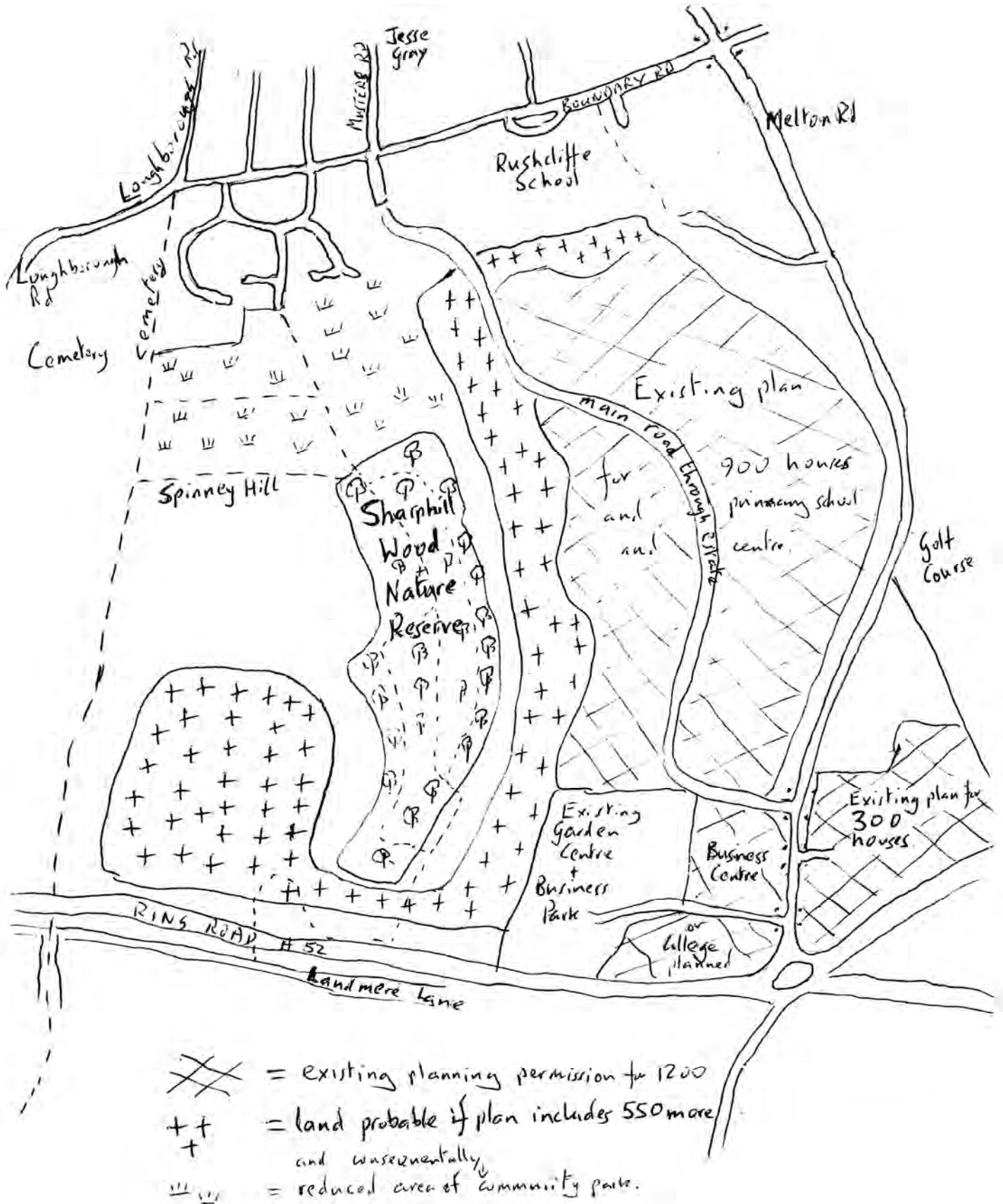
Karrar points to some of the farmland off the Melton Road where the building will occur



View of part of the site from the Wood to Melton Road

Your Liberal Democrat Focus Team and Councillors have opposed the plans to build on this skyline and hillside from the start.

Sharphill Plans – Present and Proposed



Grumbles make no difference – write what you think.

Being local matters to us

Road Changes happening this summer

Boundary Road junction with Loughborough Road

Good news for rush hour travel. The County Council has decided to widen the junction to enable more vehicles to slip left.

We campaigned for this in 2007 but were told that the widening would not be done because it would lead to a big increase in traffic using Boundary Road as a 'cut through'. Now the Council has changed its mind. Maybe because the increase is already here!

Loughborough Road

A new Pedestrian Crossing will be near the Fire Station and metal railings at the end of the path from Repton Road. The 30 mph limit will be moved southwards to be by the Cemetery. Various other road markings are planned. These are ahead of the changes at Hayman School. The changes are the result of comments by us with the County Councillor, the School and a resident.

Musters Road outside Jesse Gray

As a result of our request, replenishing the road markings is now on the list.

Devonshire Road

Congratulations on having some replacement trees planted by the County Council. If any resident considers their stretch of road is losing its character, we can tell you how we encouraged planting on Repton and Selby Roads.

Councillors Khan and Jones For Musters Ward



Looking after our area

More women are playing Racketball at Rushcliffe

The Squash Club initiative with our support, has taken off. More women are trying this sport. Contact Neil Coles email: neilathome@ntlworld.com, tel:07973961034.

We were asked about proposals for Free Schools

Liberal Democrats oppose **Free Schools** and other free market approaches to schools because the risks outweigh any advantages. They

1. waste resources when all efforts should be on learning taking place in good local schools accessible to all.
2. increase social divisiveness and inequity into a system which is already unfair because of the multiple types of schools created by both Labour and Conservatives.
3. increase the complexity of school admissions and exclusions and dilutes provision for children with special needs.
5. create surplus places which is wasteful and jeopardises improvements in existing school buildings.
6. increase discrimination on religious grounds in pupil admissions.

The Friary - Support for the Disadvantaged

The Friary (46 Musters Rd) welcomes donations of non-perishable and canned food for making up food parcels. The next Second Hand Sale by the Friary is on Saturday 6 July from 10-12.

West Bridgford work club launched

It will be offering support and employment advice to job seekers. The work Club has just started but you can join it every Monday from 2pm to 4pm at West Bridgford Library in Bridgford Road. Work clubs are free of charge to attend. They give people the chance to meet others looking for work, build new contacts, share job hunting experiences and get advice on job searches, job applications, interview techniques, CVs, volunteering and training opportunities. More information at:

<http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/newsandpublications/latestnews/name,25275,en.php>

Karrar gave a brief talk at St Paul's Church Service

He condemned the atrocious murder of the Soldier in London and said that Muslims in the UK were outraged because sanctity of human life is a basic concept in Islam.

Feel strongly about Sharphill & other local matters. Why not stand for election? Are you interested to become a Councillor? We can tell you what is involved. Contact us. Could you help our efforts in the wider community in West Bridgford? An increasing number of people receive occasional Community News updates by email.

Interested? Contact: Rod Jones 0115 914 6616 cllr.rjones@rushcliffe.gov.uk of Karrar Khan 0115 914 6758 cllr.kkhan@rushcliffe.gov.uk