

Press release - Skelmanthorpe community action group.

MP Mike Wood's option X for meeting Kirklees target of 22,000 homes may have met with the approval of the people who attended the meeting in Cleckheaton. But, they are unlikely to meet with approval in South Kirklees, the area most badly affected by the proposals.

Richard Graham of Skelmanthorpe community action group comments:

" We agree with Mike Wood that the target of 22,000 new homes in Kirklees needs to be challenged. We can see no reason for such a huge figure; it doesn't seem to be driven by local demand but by the government's national figures.

We also agree that the options put forward for consultation have flaws, not least being that option E would destroy the green belt and is in contradiction with stated planning policy.

However, his plan to spread the development across the whole of Kirklees is neither sensible nor equitable. Placing 6000 new homes in South Kirklees would almost double the number of homes in the area, a far greater percentage increase than that proposed for the other areas. The impact on the already over stretched infrastructure and local services would be enormous.

Even worse his proposal calls for 3000 of these homes to be built on Greenfield or green belt land. To put this in perspective it calls for two villages the size of Skelmanthorpe to be built on green land, in effect eliminating some of the most attractive countryside in the area. No other area suffers any impact on green belt land in his proposal, except South Kirklees. This is hardly an equitable solution.

Mike Wood claims his group represented all interested parties. We can assure him it did not represent the views of the people of Skelmanthorpe. During our recent leafleting campaign on the issue we met many residents who voiced alarm at the proposals and encountered only one person who was in favour of large-scale housing development in the area.

We aim to fight these development plans and have invited Skelmanthorpe residents to a meeting at The Church of St Aidan, Radcliffe Street, Skelmanthorpe on 16 August at 7.30 pm, to plan our campaign. If Mike Wood would like to attend I think he will find there is little support for his proposals here."

End

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Visit our Website: <http://www.skelmanthorpeaction.org.uk>