

The round table event regarding housing supply.

Attendees to the housing supply round table meeting

Inspector O S Woodward

Richard Sager, Barrister for Avant Homes

Guy Williams, Barrister for Sheffield City Council

Roland Bolton, Strategic Planning Research Unit

Mrs Stephens, Sheffield City Council

Mrs Hull, Sheffield City Council

Michael Meredith, Ecological Owlthorpe

Mr Woods of (OAG) was invited by the inspector, but declined to attend

After reading Government Statements by the Secretary of State, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and Natural England, regarding support for upstream nature -based solutions to combat climate change and stop downstream flooding, I thought the inspector would be interested in a proposal I made to the inspector at this inquiry.

I do have an interest in architecture as my father was a Draftsman/Estimator and I do support the construction of new housing. My only concern is that they are constructed in areas that do not increase flooding downstream.

I suggested to the inspector that Avant Homes should move their project to the disused Aerodrome at Norton, which is a Brownfield site by definition boasting many derelict buildings in need of redevelopment. I explained that the MOD may be responsible for removing asbestos from the site. Reported in Sheffield Star March 29th 2021 “Demolition finally gets underway at former air base.” Buildings have now been removed, so there is no reason why Avant Homes cannot remove their project to the Aerodrome at Norton.

I thought this would be a win win situation for all concerned and would conform with the statement announced by the Secretary of State. When I requested that the inspector should suggest this to the Secretary of State he said “speaking to the Secretary of State is above his pay grade.” This is very concerning as the inspector is supposed to be appointed by the Secretary of State. Guy Williams Barrister acting for Sheffield City Council thanked me for trying to obtain funding from two separate government funds. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbYXEDczL-U> In this Sophie Ridge interview George Eustace explains the government's response to UK floods: An extra £4 Billion to be spent on flood defences. In Yorkshire up stream nature-based solutions are to be supported. Roland Bolton, Strategic Planning Research Unit, Mrs Stephens, Sheffield City Council and Mrs Hull, Sheffield City Council proclaimed that Norton Aerodrome is a greenfield site so Avant Home could not transfer to that site. I disagreed.

Inspector O S Woodward wished to sort out legal matters and requested Richard Sager, Barrister acting for Avant Homes cross examine Guy Williams, Barrister acting for Sheffield City Council. Many matters were resolved, but Avant Homes wanted reassurances that before they started to build on Site (E) that they would be able to build on site C and D at a later date. This was the only way to make the project viable. Richard Sager asked if they could build two extra Houses at the end of the road that pointed towards Moorthorpe way. Guy Williams explained that Sheffield (LPA) wished to join up the two Moorthorpe ways at a later date, so Avant Homes could not build them. Inspector O S Woodwards seemed to think all legal matters had been resolved. I did Not.

I suggested that Sheffield (LPA) had caused a shortage in social housing by neglecting it whilst concentrating on student accommodation. I asked what was happening to Park Hill Flats which were built as social housing. Residents fondly called it “streets in the skies.” Although some of it has been re-developed, Roland Bolton, Strategic Planning Research explained the rest is to be

made into student accommodation. Sheffield (LPA) seems to be obsessed with student accommodation.

Government directive states constantly the need to save precious greenspaces and utilise brownfield sites instead. Norton aerodrome fits the criteria as an excellent site for Avant Homes as a viable alternative to the proposed Owlthorpe development.

Michael Meredith

