



BEACONSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN BELT POLICY STATEMENT

Background

Beaconsfield Town Council consider the greenbelt as a precious and vital part of the character of Beaconsfield. The town lies within 3km of Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the area around J2 of the M40 is an Air Quality Management Area, meaning that air quality in that area is below recommended guidelines. Our principal aquifer also runs under our Green Belt; our water and sewerage systems are “under stress.”

Our Green Belt strongly performs the 5 Green Belt functions:-

- (a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- (b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- (c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- (d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns and
- (e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Our policy

We will oppose development on our Green Belt and will oppose housing and development growth targets which cannot be accommodated without harm to our Green Belt.

*We are opposed in principle to **outline** planning applications to build on Greenbelt land.*

*As a statutory consultee we must consider all **full planning** applications even if they propose building on the Greenbelt*

We remain aligned with Government Policy as per the NPPF which states that “once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified.

Summary

Climate and ecological emergencies are making Green Belt land more valuable than ever. By protecting Green Belt, we are protecting wildlife habitats, farmland, and the last remaining areas of ancient woodland. It is vital that our remaining Green Belt remains intact in order to mitigate against the poor air quality in the AQMA and the very high levels of traffic on the A355, A40 and B474. It also preserves the setting of our historic town and its Conservation Area as well as the Chilterns AONB just to the north.

We value our Green Belt for all the benefits it brings, including: absorbing CO₂; alleviating flooding; cooling the effects of temperature rises caused by Climate Change; improving physical and mental health; acting as a soil carbon sink; and its contribution to biodiversity; agriculture; and landscape.