

## **Bamford Green Belt** **Planning Application 14/00935/FUL**

Once again an attempt is being made to desecrate our local Green Belt and we need people to object to the above application. There are already 17 objections to this application which you can read on the Council's Planning website. **The deadline is this coming Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September.**

The applicant has bought the land from the local farmer and is applying to erect **a two storey equine facility under the guise of an agricultural building on land on the western side of Bamford Hall Drive, off Bury & Rochdale Old Road, in the location of Ashworth Road/Bamford Road.** The Planning Officer involved in this application is **Robert Major**. He can be contacted at the Council's Riverside Offices in Rochdale on 0300 303 8873, or on email at [robert.major@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:robert.major@rochdale.gov.uk)

**The site will consist of a stable block for horses and livestock, secure storage for farm machinery, a hay loft and associated facilities, a covered collection yard, an all-weather turn-out/ménage and alterations to form new access.**

The application is from a private individual for the keeping of horses and ponies for his family. He is not a farmer and isn't involved in farming either in the community or in his business dealings. There are equine facilities near to where he lives in Birtle as well as on Norden Road at Butterworth Fold Farm. There is no access to suitable bridle paths in the immediate area and the riders will have to access the busy main road to get to an area which is suitable for riding.

Buildings can be sited on the Green Belt if they are for agricultural purposes. However, the keeping of horses does not come under the heading of agriculture and it is felt that this is an attempt to secure a piece of Green Belt which, if permission is granted, the applicants could apply for change of use in the future. This could open the floodgates for development.

The site is in a historical part of Bamford which contains Bamford Wood, an ancient woodland. The drive leading to the site is a private drive leading to 4 residential properties. In the past it was the access road to the old Bamford Hall. The site is also on a slope and on the edge of a very steep wooded embankment.

The building itself will be a blot on the landscape and is too large. The essential characteristics of the Green Belt is its openness and its permanence. This building will not enhance the openness of this area due to its size, design and appearance. It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt and to retain and enhance the landscape and visual amenity.

If you wish to object you can view the plans on the Council's website under 'Planning and Building' and by inserting the **planning number 14/00935/FUL**, where you can also add your objections.

It is vital now more than ever due to the recent changes in planning law that we continue to preserve the Green Belt as long as we can in this area. It is inevitable that some time in the future this lovely area of green fields in Bamford could be developed. However, it is our democratic right to object now in order to preserve it for as long as possible.

Many thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

**BAMFORD GREEN BELT ACTION GROUP**