

# NO!

# TO THE LOXLEY VALLEY TOWNSHIP!

Our Sheffield city councillors voted unanimously to **REFUSE** planning permission for 300 houses in the heart of the Loxley valley. But the developers are appealing against the decision. Our community must now prepare for a planning inquiry in April. We need professional help so that we have an effective voice, but that will cost us thousands of pounds.

**Please support our 'Save Loxley valley' fighting fund**

You can donate at [friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com](http://friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com) or by using this QR code:



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# Friends of the Loxley Valley

email: [info@friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com](mailto:info@friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com)

website: [friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com](http://friendsoftheloxleyvalley.com)

## **JANUARY UPDATE: *Dear Neighbour,***

We are writing to update you about plans to build mass housing in the valley, and to ask for your help and support at a critical time for our community.

As you will probably know, the good news is that last September Sheffield City Council's Planning Committee unanimously refused permission for up to 300 new houses on the old Hepworth works site.

The planners' report said the township would damage Green Belt openness, harm the special character of the valley, be unsustainable and remote from local services. It said the developers had failed to justify building on a flood plain, and had not provided enough information to judge the impact on biodiversity, landscape, climate change, design quality, pollution and the remediation of derelict land.

We think the council got it right! We hoped the developers would accept the verdict and work with local people to come up with something more in keeping with this exceptionally sensitive site. But they have now decided to appeal against the decision, hoping they can persuade a Planning Inspector to overrule the council and to say that the city got it wrong. This means we now face more months of uncertainty until a planning inquiry in April that is expected to last for ten days.

The planning inquiry is like a court with a Planning Inspector as the judge. We expect the developers to use their financial muscle to employ the best legal and technical representatives. The council will need similar legal and technical expertise to defend its refusal of planning permission.

We (FoLV) and our campaign partners, CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire ([CPRE PDSY](#)), have been granted 'Rule 6' participant status at the inquiry so that we too can make our case and challenge the argument for mass housing. **We think it is vital that the Planning Inspector hears local concerns.** But we must expect to be cross examined too, and will need legal advice and representation to defend our case. If we lose the inquiry the special character and beauty of the valley will be changed forever.

## **How you can help us:**

- We have set up a **'Save Loxley valley' fighting fund** to pay for the professional help we need. Our target is £15,000. That sounds a lot, but we can do it if we all chip in a few pounds! The money is being held in a secure bank account by our CPRE PDSY charity partners. **You can contribute online using the GoFundMe link on our website.** Please remember to GiftAid your donation if you are a taxpayer – that means we get more money! We know this is a really tough time to ask for money, but **please donate if you can.**
- Almost 1,000 of us objected to the original planning application. The council has now written to all objectors, explaining that we can submit our own concerns to the Planning Inspector. We encourage you to do this so your voice is heard! You can also contact the Planning Inspector even if you didn't object first time round. **You can find guidance on our website on how to go about it.**
- Please visit our website or follow us on social media so we can keep you updated. **If you join FoLV (at no cost - details on website) we can update you with emails and you can help us to develop more fundraising ideas.**
- **...you can also support us and help spread the word by putting this poster in your window!**

Thank you again for your time. With your help and support, we are confident that the community and the city can **win** this fight!

*Your sincerely,*  
*Friends of the Loxley Valley*