

Dear Postbag,

I am glad The News raised the issue of land-banking - where developers buy land fairly cheaply in the hope that one day - maybe years hence - they will be able to get planning permission to build on the site and make a huge profit.

These developers hire top-flight lawyers who attend public inquiries on their behalf to argue the case for their land to be earmarked for development instead of their competitors. Of course, the people who are missing from these inquiries are the very people who will feel the impact of these developments - the residents. They can't afford to take weeks off work to argue their case.

There is no doubt that land-banking can distort the way in which an area develops, preventing it from doing so in a sensible way that benefits everyone.

The Green Party has a policy of a Land Tax. This would be a tax on the land itself, but not the buildings on it or any produce from it. This would discourage land-bankers from sitting on land for years to maximise their profits when this is not in the interests of the rest of the community.

Andrea Claire Smith  
Press officer  
SE Hants Green Party