# Tempsford residents protest against government’s reckless new towns plan



A small Bedfordshire village poised as a potential site for one of the UK’s so-called “new towns” finds itself at the mercy of government overreach, with local residents feeling increasingly ignored and betrayed by a reckless planning process. Tempsford, a community of just 600 residents and 300 homes, has been earmarked for a massive development driven by a government fixated on meeting superficial housing targets rather than genuine local needs. The plan hinges on the strategic location at the intersection of the East Coast Main Line and the planned East-West Rail, but beyond that, transparency and proper consultation have been conspicuously absent.

Local parish council chairman David Sutton has voiced deep frustration over the government’s blatant disregard for community voices. “Nobody’s come to talk to us at all,” Sutton stated, reflecting widespread resentment over the complete lack of engagement. Instead, the community feels they’re being subjected to top-down dictates with little regard for their concerns, their environment, or their heritage.

This push for new towns, justified by Labour’s empty promise to build 1.5 million houses in the next Parliament, appears more driven by political posturing than practical planning. Promoting “new towns” with at least 10,000 homes each, the government is preparing to deliver a sprawling 300,000 houses across England—an enormous expansion that threatens to overwhelm small communities like Tempsford. Rumors swirling about the number of houses—ranging from 10,000 to an outrageous 125,000—only highlight the government’s opaque approach. Clearly, this is about fulfilling political ambitions rather than listening to local communities or respecting their voices.

Residents are justifiably alarmed, not only by the potential scale but by the environmental risks involved. Tempsford lies within a flood hotspot area, with the River Great Ouse regularly overflowing, causing severe flooding and sewage backflows into homes for decades. How can such land safely support a new town when it’s prone to inundation? It’s a question the government seems content to ignore, prioritizing short-term political gains over genuine infrastructure resilience and environmental safety.

Beyond the environmental concerns, the development threatens to erase the village’s rural charm and historical significance. Adam Hart, a local historian, warns that the destruction of RAF Tempsford’s secret Second World War airfield—once a key hub in covert operations—would erase a vital part of Britain’s wartime legacy. The local Tempsford Museum preserves this history, but the government’s reckless approach risks obliterating these precious memories to accommodate yet more housing development.

The political implications are obvious. By sidelining local voices and rushing headlong into development, the government exemplifies a contempt for ordinary communities, preferring to impose “progress” rather than earn public trust. The opposition’s attempts to demand clear, detailed plans—especially from Central Bedfordshire Council—have fallen on deaf ears, revealing a government more interested in ticking boxes than fostering honest dialogue.

Meanwhile, think tanks like UKDayOne forecast astonishing figures—up to 350,000 residents lining up in Tempsford alone—underscoring the reckless magnitude of these proposals. This is not about addressing housing shortages; it’s about fulfilling political ambitions at the expense of local communities, their heritage, and their future. The push for these “new towns” reveals a government that is all about spectacle and meaningless targets, rather than sustainable, community-focused growth.

In summary, Tempsford’s situation exemplifies the failures and dangers of a government that champions housing delivery without regard for environmental safety, local consultation, or heritage. Their blind pursuit of political success threatens to transform vibrant communities into sprawling, unmanaged developments—an approach that cannot be justified when real concerns about safety, sustainability, and community integrity are brushed aside. The community deserves better than this top-down, unaccountable planning—what’s needed is transparent dialogue, respect for local needs, and a reset on policies that genuinely serve the people, not political ambitions.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/government-criticised-for-leaving-villagers-in-dark-over-potential-new-town-A3YYHAEVLRJJHFVCVNEVGGT7QE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/bedfordshire-news-houses-tempsford-megacity> - Residents in Tempsford, Bedfordshire, have expressed strong opposition to plans proposing the construction of a new town accommodating up to 350,000 people. The proposal, put forward by the think tank UKDayOne, suggests transforming the village into a major urban centre, citing its strategic location at the intersection of the East Coast Main Line and the planned East-West Rail line. Local inhabitants, including Mark Cleary and Paulette Smith, have voiced concerns that such extensive development would drastically alter the rural character of the area and place undue strain on existing infrastructure and services.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2024-07-19/could-a-rural-village-turn-into-a-giant-new-town-for-350000-people> - Proposals to develop Tempsford, a small village in Bedfordshire, into a new town housing up to 350,000 residents have sparked significant local opposition. The UKDayOne think tank's report highlights Tempsford's potential due to its connectivity via the East Coast Main Line and the planned East-West Rail line. However, local residents, including Parish Council Chairman David Sutton, have expressed concerns about the scale of development and its impact on the community, infrastructure, and the environment.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/property/buying-selling/village-350000-person-city-flooding-hotspot/> - Tempsford, a village in Bedfordshire, is being considered for a major housing development that could accommodate up to 350,000 people. The UKDayOne think tank has identified the area as a prime location due to its strategic position at the intersection of the East Coast Main Line and the planned East-West Rail line. However, the village is prone to flooding, with fields surrounding it commonly submerged when the River Great Ouse overflows, raising concerns about the feasibility and environmental impact of such large-scale development.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/property/tempsford-risk-ruin-labour-new-town-policy/> - The proposal to transform Tempsford, a small Bedfordshire village, into a new town housing up to 350,000 residents has faced strong opposition from local businesses. Jodie Knott, who runs a farm shop in the village, fears that the development would destroy the community's rural character and negatively impact local businesses. The plan, part of the Labour government's initiative to build new towns, has raised concerns about its impact on the environment, infrastructure, and the existing community.
6. <https://www.biggleswadetoday.co.uk/news/politics/council/council-leader-calls-for-clarity-over-potential-tempsford-new-town-4974606> - Central Bedfordshire Council leader Adam Zerny has called for clarity from the government regarding the potential development of a new town at Tempsford. The proposal, part of a plan to create 18 new towns across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, has raised questions about its location and impact. Zerny seeks definitive information to address local concerns and ensure that any development aligns with the community's needs and aspirations.
7. <https://www.tempsfordmuseum.co.uk/raf-tempsford> - RAF Tempsford, located near the village of Tempsford in Bedfordshire, was a secret airfield during the Second World War. It was home to the Special Duties Squadrons, which were tasked with dropping secret agents and supplies into occupied Europe. The Tempsford Museum houses a large archive of material related to RAF Tempsford, including photographs, documents, and parts of aircraft, preserving the history of this significant site.