

## **Rotherham District Civic Society**

Our issue with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council concerns their claim to be serious in the cause of sustainability. In four different arenas they are sending out exactly the opposite message:

1. Millmoor. There is a perfectly good football arena in Rotherham, which, for £3 to £5 million, could become a Community Stadium, hosting a range of activities and breathing new life into Masbrough. Instead, they're helping the football club search for a new site which, if it ever gets planning permission, will cost £25 million pounds to develop, to say nothing about the associated infrastructure.
2. Green Belt. The Council have done nothing to resist Government targets which tell them to plan for 24,000 new homes in the next decade and a half. In identifying three potential areas of Green Belt land, they are imposing 'planning blight' on these areas, which will be left uncultivated.
3. Public Realm Strategy. Under this strategy they are being advised by consultants to tear up many of the pavements in the town centre (again) and relay them with new materials. Anybody walking through the town centre will be aware that it is not the actual pavings which are the problem, it is their maintenance. As with many buildings there, such as the Empire building at the top of High Street and the Lloyds building on Corporation Street, a washing down would do a world of good.
4. Civic Buildings. These buildings are to be flattened to make way for Tesco; new council offices are to be built on the former Guest and Chrimes site. We object to this believing that 30 year old buildings should be renovated rather than demolished.