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 **INSIDE!** 
Heritage Open Days 2011 Supplement
Your essential Programme and Maps
for the weekend of
Friday, September 9 – Sunday, September 11

Forever young at 90

EDDIE Holness was looking forward to a second birthday party to celebrate his ninetieth birthday on Wednesday, August 31, having enjoyed an earlier one arranged two weeks ago when relatives from Canada were visiting the country.

Son Paul and daughter-in-law Sheila, who live in Attenborough and not far from Mr Holness, had arranged for the first party to take place, and now the family was getting ready for a second family celebration at the Corn Mill in Chilwell, where they were to be joined on Wednesday evening by Mr Holness's daughter, Jacky and son-in-law, Keith, who live at West Hallam.

In the meantime, the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Jacky Williams, had called in on Eddie to wish him a happy ninetieth birthday on behalf of Broxtowe Borough Council, and to present a suitably

masculine basket of flowers in strong reds and deep yellows.

Mr Holness has lived on Long Lane, Attenborough, since he married in 1958, living alone since his wife, Doris, passed away in 1982.

Before retirement, he worked as a sales representative for petrol stations, spending much of his working life driving. He has always been interested in languages and, apart from speaking French, Spanish, Italian and German, could claim a good enough knowledge of Arabic and Urdu to get by at one time. "Although," he said, "it's not so good now that I rarely get to speak them."

Mr Holness had an Italian neighbour on Long Lane at one time, and they would always converse in Italian.

He has four grandchildren, two grandsons and two granddaughters.

New housing in Broxtowe

Where should it go?

THE last government decided that Greater Nottingham would need to find space to build about 50,000 new homes by 2025 and, as dutiful citizens, we sat and listened to the proposals of the 'Core Strategy', the scheme that would see these new homes delivered – a number of them on Broxtowe's Green Belt land.

The Core Strategy slipped out of sight around the time of the General Election in 2010 but now it's back, and Greater Nottingham's local authorities are being asked to find space for 52,000 new homes this time. The 'Aligned Core Strategy' apportions the new build housing allocation depending on the population density and spare land within each of the boroughs, and Broxtowe has emerged with a requirement to find space for 5765 of the 52,000 houses needed.

At the time of the earlier Core Strategy proposal, the councils of Greater Nottingham got themselves together and commissioned a study to identify possible sites in the conurbation.

Five were suggested for Broxtowe: the Boots site (550); Field Farm at Stapleford north of Ilkeston Road (450) and land west of Toton Lane (800) at Stapleford. A further 1775 could be built on sites at Awsworth, Kimberley, Eastwood and Brinsley. Land in Nuthall near to Junction 26 may be considered. Space for the remaining 2000+ would be found on smaller agreed sites.

Broxtowe Borough Council's own preferred strategic sites in the Aligned Core Strategy, based on feedback from that previous consultation, are those at Field Farm and west of Toton Lane.

This time, the government has

produced a consultation paper with more information and where people are invited to voice their opinions. The government states that, if a local authority does not produce a local plan that includes the strategic plans of all the authorities in the greater conurbation, developers can apply for permission to build virtually anywhere they want, and the local authority would either have to allow this – or face a costly legal challenge.

Although the Aligned Core Strategy is still at its consultative state, this doctrine has already been put to the test elsewhere – and the developer won.

Another factor that the council must take into consideration is that the amount of finance a local authority receives from the government is directly affected by the amount of house building being carried out in the area, under the 'new homes bonus'.

Consultation period

The consultation period started at the end of July 2011 and is due to end at 5pm on Monday, October 3, 2011. For more information and to respond, go to broxtowe.gov.uk or call (0115) 917 3452 and ask to speak to a member of the Planning Policy team.

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