

In previous correspondence I described a different vision for Owlthorpe Fields. This builds on its ecological richness to create a 2-mile urban wildlife corridor to provide a space, on the doorstep, for the physical and mental wellbeing of the communities living within the Beighton, Birley & Mosborough wards. In addition, it will provide a space for active travel and through engagement with schools, a learning resource to underpin the curriculum at all levels.

Quoting Cllr Terry Fox from February: "We know that quality social care services play a huge role in preventing the deterioration of people's health, meaning they can live independently and safely in the community, and leave hospital in a timely manner. It is generally accepted that community-based care provides more positive outcomes for people, as well as being significantly less costly than hospital-based medical treatments. The lack of funding for preventative services puts huge operational and financial pressures on the NHS. As our population ages, the rising cost of social care for our elderly residents remains an issue that urgently needs addressing"

This emphasises my argument against this proposal and why a more positive vision is essential.

The surroundings of a person set the tone for their quality of life, leading to a healthier life and a reduction in usage of health and social care services. To reduce council budgets and find solutions to what councillor fox described, improvements in our urban landscape are needed. Sheffield has seen urban planning aimed at improving health before, during the late 1940s and 50s families were moved onto new estates from the Victorian slums. There is an increasing understanding of the role green space plays in wellbeing, highlighted by its inclusion in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation analysis. As society becomes more sedentary, obesity and type II diabetes have doubled in less than 30 years. Further the number of people living alone is rising with social isolation having cost implications on council budgets. Therefore, planning improvements in our urban landscape should focus more on providing the space for physical activity at the individual and, at the community level through volunteer and interest groups.

Sheffield's adult social care budget is £237m with £11.2m of council reserves used to fill last year's shortfall. This land sale will provide needed income, but what about the next budget shortfall? More ecologically rich land sold? What does this entail for the health and wellbeing of that community? A reduction in the access people have to green space to exercise and relax will put further pressure on adult social care budgets. It is a negative spiral we need to address by creating more resilient and healthy communities.

Public Health England estimates 37,600 people are suffering from T2D in Sheffield costing £65M to the health service, with additional pressures on the council's own budget. Its prevalence in the 3 surrounding wards to Owlthorpe Fields is 6.9%, with a population of around 55,000 this equate to 3700 people costing the NHS approximately £3.5m. With the rate of diabetes predicted to increase 8% over the next 15 years further financial pressure is expected. However, it can be controlled and even put into remission by diet and physical exercise. The proposal to build 74 homes, even at council tax band D, only equates to £140,000 a year. In contrast, just in terms of type 2 diabetes, what

are the savings if we utilise this space to keep people fitter and happier for longer? Further, AgeUK estimates the cost of a care home to be £546 a week in Yorkshire; by keeping our society fitter for longer, even just keeping a handful of people living independently for 6 months longer, equates to a significant saving. 40% of the neighbouring wards are over 50 so significant savings can be made in the short and medium term. What about the cost benefit of reduced cardiovascular disease, lung disease and mental health issues? It will far outweigh a one-off land sale and a yearly income of £140,000. And what about education? The area has a worse attainment record than the national average, even slight gains in this will benefit the community, further reducing the dependence on social welfare and adult social care in future years.

In its 2016 report 'Fit for The Future, A Strategy for Primary Care Services in Sheffield' the Sheffield Clinical Care Commissioning Group highlighted the need to empower neighbourhood groups and patients in maintaining and improving health. By working with community groups, social prescribing networks, ecologist, schools, and Council departments, we can make a lasting difference to communities in South East Sheffield.

Rejecting this proposal accepts the social realities and provides a positive blueprint for the city.

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