

Planning Committee Meeting

Hi. My name is Christine Rippon and I'm asking the Committee to REJECT this Application based on our right to access a green open space.

I've lived in Hackenthorpe almost 30 years and love to walk in Owlthorpe Fields for exercise, and to find the tranquility and peace of mind it affords. Many residents do the same. Owlthorpe Fields is our **only** usable, green open space within walking distance.

WE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A LOCAL DISTRICT PARK.

Sheffield's Green Open Space Strategy proudly states "Sheffield has more public parks and green spaces ...than most European cities." - this may be true in some parts of the City, but not here. Our community can't afford to lose this space.

I refer you to the **UDP, Sections BE11** and the **section on the Green Environment** which say that public open spaces should be protected and accessible to everyone.

CS47 9.21 of Core Strategy says open space provision must **safeguard** the open spaces we have.

NPPF Paragraph 117 requires brown field sites be developed rather than green field but appears to give approval to Sheffield's Core Strategy for Owlthorpe Fields to be developed, because it's part of the Strategy.

However, the reliance in the Officer's report on **NPPF 117** is undermined by a footnote, no. 44. It states that building on green field sites can be allowed:

"except where this would conflict with other policies in this Framework, including causing harm to designated sites of importance for biodiversity."

The Local Wildlife Site to the west and the woodland of Ochre Dyke to the north are both designated in this way. Wildlife doesn't observe borders and will be profoundly affected by this development - they will flee the whole area,

or be killed, causing profound harm in these designated sites for biodiversity.

Critically, footnote 44 does not identify the **site which is to be developed**, but refers to any **designated sites of importance for biodiversity**. NPPF takes precedence over Core Strategy, and therefore indicates this application should be rejected on this point alone.

Para 97b of NPPF says: “Existing open spaceshould not be built on unless: “the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent, or better provision, in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location”

Clearly this is not going to happen. It's impossible. So also on this basis, you should reject this application.

Section 8 Para 96 of the NPPF states. “Access to a network of high quality open spacesis important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space....”.

Clearly the Council's current planning policy is not up-to-date and fails to reflect the challenges of climate change and viral pandemics. It's difficult to express just how vital Owlthorpe Fields has been to residents during the lockdown. Scientists say pandemics are likely to repeat. This will force changes in the way people work, with many working permanently from home. In our community, they will need Owlthorpe Fields for exercise and to relieve stress.

The Council Declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 saying: “climate change ‘requires bold, radical action...’ and ‘requires changes to how we all live, work and play’” (4.2 (c) and 4.2(e))

You may point out, the Declaration doesn't form part of current planning policy, but I respectfully say to you that **it should**, and I think many of you **understand that it should**, and that it **will** in the future. If the LDP hadn't been delayed, climate change would be fundamentally impacting planning

policy now. This is not a time for sticking pedantically to out of date policies, it's a time of change – a time for bold, radical action.

It was said in the debate on the Climate Emergency: 'A fairer, greener city is better for all of us'... We're asking for that fairness. South East Sheffield has seen exponential development since the 60's, in both housing and retail developments.

We say, this is the wrong application, at the wrong time, in the wrong place.

I urge you to take on board the strength and sustained voices of our community and reject this application today.