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**From:** Sean Carlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 February 2015 21:46  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Ancient orchard off Irvine Road, Colchester

Dear Sir,

I feel compelled to write to you as I have recently learnt that property developers intend to submit a planning application to build houses on the ancient orchard behind Irvine Road, Colchester. I currently live on [REDACTED] but prior to that I lived on Irvine Road for 13 years, so I know the area and issues very well.

My understanding is that the orchard is currently designated as a Local Wildlife Site and has a tree preservation order in place, and it is 1 of only 7 such orchards left in Essex. In addition it is home to many rare and not-so-rare flora and fauna, which makes it ideal as a resource for local schools.

I totally cannot understand how building a few posh houses on such a magnificent plot can be justified. If there is any town that really does not need any further development then it's Colchester. All round the Hospital, the vast areas of ex-MoD land, Tollgate, the Hythe - the list is staggering. Plus the new development of the old council site on Park Road must surely provide the choice for posh detached feature properties in the local area.

In summary I sincerely hope you put the long term interests of local wildlife and people before the profit of a property developer when deciding what the future of this fantastic plot of land should be.

Yours faithfully,  
Sean Carlin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]