

**From:** Jennifer Levy Halford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2015 18:15  
**To:** Planning Services; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** building application, Irvine Road

As you know, Irvine Road has an Ancient Orchard, one that was designated as a wildlife site and a private open space. The whole area is also covered by a Tree Preservation Order; it is one of the few remaining ancient orchards, more than 100 years old.

The land was put up for sale last year. Local residents raised over £90,000 to buy it in order to retain its protected status and to provide children with the opportunity for outdoor education. This offer was apparently turned down. A developer has bought it with the intention of building seven houses on the site, despite the wildlife surveys, the tree protection orders, and the opposition by local residents. The application from the builder to change the site from orchard status to residential land has already been made.

I have been living in Colchester for over forty years and have seldom witnessed such anger and despair from people living here. Our open spaces are diminishing. This used to be a very interesting and pleasant town, with a fascinating history. What do we have now? A town where, increasingly, new houses are built with tiny rooms and miniscule gardens (or no gardens at all), and where properties are crammed together in order to make them as profitable as possible for the developers.

You have only to look at the latest houses along Turner Road, between the town centre and the General Hospital; this is a shameful example of greed and exploitation.

Please consider the feelings of those who live in and around Lexden, and reject the application by the Irvine Road developer. Do not make things worse for Colchester residents. Please maintain the status of the wildlife site and give our children the opportunity to explore the lovely open space there.

Thank you.

Jennifer Levy Halford