
From: Vikram Arora <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 27 February 2015 18:52
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Objection to changing the status of the Orchard at the back of Irvine Road
Importance: High

27th February 2015

CBC Planning Committee

Re: Objection to the current effort to change the status of the Orchard at Irvine Road from a Local Wildlife site to Residential Land

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My name is Vikram Arora and I live at [REDACTED] along with my wife and two boys. We moved to Colchester two and a half years ago since we liked the level of education available in Colchester and we wanted to give our children the opportunity to sit for the Grammar school exam given the quality of the school and its Ofsted standing.

During our search for housing in 2012, we visited Colchester numerous times and saw over 30 properties in Colchester before we settled on [REDACTED]. We chose this house because of many reasons:

- Location of the property and its proximity to Colchester High School and the Colchester Royal Grammar School
- The serenity of the surrounding Orchard, the animals that live in it, the ancient trees that have been left undisturbed to grow and most importantly it's status as a Local Wildlife site with a TPO which meant that nothing would be built there and we weren't living in the middle of a concrete jungle
- The managed traffic in the area which allowed my children to walk safely to school along with all the other children who use this road every morning
- The Irvine Road neighbourhood and our immediate neighbours whom we have got to know very well

We even struggled through a very difficult Contract race to purchase our house because of the points mentioned above especially the location of the house and the open space and greenery provided by the Orchard.

We were quite surprised and saddened to hear about the purchase of the Orchard by a developer who wants to convert the orchard to a residential land with 7 houses. We're surprised because it seems that by meeting a few stipulations it's easy for a developer to overturn a decision made to protect a piece of land for the right reasons. Then why go through the hassle of designating something as a Local Wildlife site with a TPO?

For us, the destruction of the Orchard represents a clear departure from all the points above canceling our reasons for purchasing this property and within such short a time. The greenery and open space will disappear, the wonderful animals that live in the Orchard will lose their home, the traffic will increase affecting the safety of our children who walk, cycle and play in the area not to mention the amount of noise and dirt pollution we will face while the construction of the houses start. Given the access road to the Orchard and the tight space to get any construction vehicles inside, the disruption to the neighbourhood and safety of our children will all be impacted.

We urge the Committee to reconsider – for the sake of the safety of our children and for the protection of an area that has and continues to give our entire neighborhood so much joy and peace.

With kind regards and in anticipation of a decision to retain the Orchard as a Local Wildlife site

Vikram Arora
Archana Arora
Aryaan Arora
Krishiv Arora