
From: Helen Skipp <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 26 February 2015 19:25
To: Planning Policy
Subject: The Orchard, The Chase, Irvine Road, Colchester

FAO The Planning Policy Committee

I have been advised that the new owner of this site would like to change its designation from a local wildlife site and private open space to residential land with the intention to then apply to build on the land.

As a local resident I would like to formally register my objection to this potential change of use for the following reasons:

- Colchester has lost a huge amount of open space to development in recent years, resulting in a loss of appropriate habitat for wildlife. This ancient small area is home to much wildlife and is already a designated wildlife site. This protection was given quite recently after a full wildlife survey which advised against development. In the twenty five years I have lived here the loss of wildlife has been noticeable and worrying, we must try to protect these small oasis of undeveloped land.
- This orchard is ancient and rare and as such should be valued and protected in the urban environment. This site could be a great resource to the community, in particular local schools who could use the area to enhance the children's learning about the natural world.
- This area has tree protection orders in place
- The orchard is protected as a designated private open space

I would also like to express concerns that if this designation is changed and planning allowed there would be a serious implication for road safety, particularly the huge number of school children that use this route each day to and from the four secondary school that are within minutes' walk. Irvine Road is very well used by pedestrians and cyclists but has a difficult junction very close to The Chase. The sight lines and hazardous behaviour of the school children is a constant concern, over the years I have witnessed several near misses.

I believe that the loss to the environment, to Colchester far outweighs any benefit. The addition of a few house will have no benefit to the town only the developer would benefit.

Once lost this ancient open space will be gone forever.

I would like to advise you that I do not back onto this land; my concerns are for the wildlife and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in particular Colchester school children.

Regards,

Helen Skipp
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