

Middlewick Statements

Section 2 Publication Draft Colchester Borough Local Plan

Representation ID 6509

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Respondent Mrs Wendy Fransella

Main Matter Question 11-Policies DMI-DMI4- Health and wellbeing, Community Provision and Sports Provision

MM11. Are the policies relating to Health and Wellbeing justified by appropriate available evidence having regard to national guidance and local context and CPI?

Statement

No- the building of housing on the Middlewick Ranges is a threat to the health of local people for a number of reasons.

1. Pollution-South Colchester has already had major development at the Hythe and in Rowhedge village. The number of vehicles in the area has increased and with it risks to health caused by pollution. Further building will increase the volume of vehicles causing pollution beyond acceptable limits
2. Health providers- due to the already increased population of the area the doctor's surgeries are close to breaking point. Unless new surgeries are included as part of any development this situation will only worsen.
3. Open Space – needed for exercise to maintain physical and mental health and wellbeing by the local people of the area as evidenced by its use during the pandemic lockdowns.

MM17 Are the policies that relate to the Retention of Open Space and Recreation

Facilities, Provision of Public Open Space...justified by appropriate available evidence...?

No- for the following reasons:-

Space for exercise- during the Pandemic and subsequent lockdowns thousands of people have used the Wick area for their daily exercise. There were already hundreds of dogwalkers and people using the area and this has multiplied significantly from hundreds to thousands. This area of natural beauty provides walking space crucial to the local population's health and well-being, both physical and mental.

People come from Monkwick estate, Barnhall estate, Old Heath, Blackheath, Rowhedge and from New Town to use this space which has become like a country park for the South. Many people have joined online forums to save this natural open space and keep it as a country park for Southern Colchester for the health and well-being of the local people. There is no park in the south of Colchester like the Highwoods Country Park in the North.