

Appendix B (Part A Report) – Wheatfield Objection letter

26 Mather Road
Bury
BL9 6QU

4 February 2022

Property and Asset Management
Bury Council
3 Knowsley Place
Duke Street
Bury
BL9 0EJ

Dear Sir/Madam

Disposal of public open space land at Wheatfield Close, Limefield, Bury BL9 6XD

We are writing to raise an objection to the proposed disposal of the above public open space land. The reasons are as follows:

1. Green spaces are associated with better air quality and Bury has been identified as having poor air quality. This is confirmed by the proposed introduction of the Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) on 30 May from the boundary with Rossendale. The disposal of plots of green space in Bury MBC is therefore contradictory to the aim of the CAZ which is to improve air quality in the shortest possible time.
2. Living in areas with grass and trees has been linked to lower risk of various health conditions such as high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. As well as physical health, green space is now widely associated with positive mental health and a person's general well-being and its disposal would be detrimental to the local community.
3. When the estate was built at the beginning of the 1980s it was widely discussed at the time that that this plot of land was not built on because it was designated and designed as an access (and egress) point for emergency vehicles (i.e. fire engines) as the estate is a large cul-de-sac. Before any decision is made regarding the proposed disposal we would strongly suggest that the associated planning records are examined. Adjacent to the land is a pathway for pedestrian access to Severn Close and Mather Road.

The above concerns are made on the assumption that the plot of land under consideration is opposite number 16 Wheatfield Close. We have made two e-mail requests for a plan of the site

by the preferred method to property@bury.gov.uk on the 13 January and 28 January 2022 but as yet we have not received a copy of the plan. The formal notice in the Bury Times also stated that a copy of the plan would be available to view at the Town Hall. On 2 February the two receptionists at the Town Hall looked high and low on shelves, in cupboards and on the computer but nothing could be found.

It is very unsatisfactory that our comments and objections have to be made without being in full possession of the facts especially as we received a letter dated 14 January (following a previous case and a formal complaint) stating that the Property and Asset Management team will be reviewing the objection process.

Yours faithfully

DF and JE Hinkley