

Name of Petition: Keep Lockton Avenue Recreation Ground for the Local Community on-line Petition

Additional Information:

The area is used on (at least) a daily basis by many local people; and is a very welcome green space, which excels at elevating the general ambience, in an already highly-developed urban and industrial area; not to mention that it is a welcome haven for wildlife. This land is crisscrossed with lots of paths. These have been used by many people for over 20 years as rights of way.

Keep it for the good of the community, to walk their dogs, have picnics on, play football and cricket on, build snowmen on and much, much more.

Name of Petition Organiser: H Robinson

Date Received: 01 May 2017

Number of Signatures: 406 (at the date of submission to and receipt by the Council). Further notifications received advising of further signatures 1) on 15 May 2017, giving revised total of 510 and 2) on 5 June 2017, giving revised total of 631.

Outcome:

The Petition was considered by the Council's Management Team on Wednesday 3 May 2017, who resolved that given its subject matter i.e. objections to one or more of the proposed Housing Growth Sites in the Draft Local Plan, that it be considered by the Council alongside all other representations received on the Draft Local Plan. A report in relation to the Draft Local Plan was presented to Full Council on 5 June 2017. This report considered the petition at the Full Council meeting on 5 June 2017, alongside other representations received on the Draft Local Plan.

The Council was advised that the site included in the Draft Local Plan as a proposed Housing Growth Site at Thorpes Road, Heanor, relates to a small part of the area of existing open space including the Lockton Avenue Recreation Ground, but that the land proposed for development does not include sports pitches and there would therefore be no loss of such provision. The Council was advised that the existing access from Thorpes Road through to the recreation ground would also need to be retained alongside any development proposals and would maintain links through to Shipley Country Park.

The Council was also advised that there had been no specific concerns raised by Derbyshire County Council (as the Highway Authority), in relation to access to the site and that no concerns had been raised from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, in relation to wildlife.

The Council concluded that the site is suitable in principle for housing development and that this can be delivered in the Plan period. The Council therefore agreed that this site be included in the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

It should be noted that as details of signatories to this petition, including the head petitioner, were submitted on-line via www.change.org, the Council was unable to acknowledge the receipt of the petition via the head petitioner and has also been unable to report back to the head petitioner in respect of the outcome.