

Mike Gittens

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12th May 2015

Martin Pike
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol. BS1 6PN

Re-convened Examination Hearings Knowsley Local Plan

Dear Mr Pike,

RE: SUE. WHITAKERS TRIANGLE (A58)

Further Evidence.

The main business of the site is Whitakers Garden Centre and Landscapers Yard, with potential to grow and diversify, serving the people of Merseyside.

The implications of Green Belt Status removal, will lead to the likely hood of the business becoming landlocked by housing or inappropriate development, the loss of amenity and will greatly reduce its economic viability and future sustainability.

Two other garden centre within four miles (Buckles and Gateacre) and a third on the Wirral have recently closed, their sites landlocked and unable to grow or diversify. The land now gone for building

As one of twenty one full time employees at Whitakers Garden Centre I am gravely concerned for the future of the business and the loss of land based industries within the Borough of Knowsley due to continued urbanisation.

Yours sincerely,

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Dear Mr Pike,

I attache a letter sent to Knowsley Councils Scrutiny Committee. Please read.

I have had no reply as of yet.

I do not believe the councils intentions regards community involvement, and follow their own agenda's. Doing the minimum to engage and notify the people who they are supposed to serve.

Yours Sincerely

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16th April 2015

Knowsley Overview and Scrutiny Board
Democratic Services
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton

Dear Sirs,

Regarding the Board's notice looking for suggestions for review topics to examine in detail over the coming 12 months.

I have the following suggestions:

In relation to last year, you examined how the council can attract and deliver investment into the borough's key business parks. I suggest this year the council can look at how it can help restore the loss of the boroughs small holdings, horticulture and agriculture that provide work and produce for the benefit of the residents of the borough.

You could examine how the loss of playing fields and green spaces has impacted on families, youth and sports clubs of limited means.

What provision is going to be made to relocate equestrian business's (that serve the local community within walking distances) forced out by the local plan, if adopted in the proposed form. Are residents likely to lose out on opportunities and experiences once on their doorstep.

Air quality seems to be falling within the borough, with often a smell of burning MDF in the air and fumes from increased car use.

Do street trees to provide visual amenity and improve air quality. Giving residents a feeling of well being in a healthier environment.

How is the local plan going to help the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly those in crisis.

Surplus land. Is it really surplus? Is there a benefit in keeping it for the future generations. Knowsley Garden Borough, the place to have a life, work and play.

Has the borough worked out the **true** value of its green infrastructure, in terms of employment, health and wellbeing to its residents.

Is the council satisfied with the efficiency and effectiveness of the public consultation on the Local Plan and the release of Green Belt for future housing needs.

How does the council propose to ratify the contradictions of the proposed local plan: removal of green belt, infilling of green spaces, loss of playing fields and recreational facilities and loss of wildlife against the approved Knowsley Green Space Strategy. Promoted by councillors Morgan and Connor.

I include a quote from the Green Space Strategy "Green spaces are important to people. In a recent survey 84% of Knowsley's residents felt that the majority of open spaces were important to them"

Yours sincerely,

Mike Gittens