

Matter 2 Written Statement – Vision and Objectives – SL02 – Sarah Day

I feel I need to write this email, even though I do not know if it complies with what is being asked. To be honest, the whole process of this hearing is not inclusive, it requires a high level of intelligence, access to a computer/internet, a huge amount of time to read all of the documents, which are not very user friendly and also knowledge of where to find these documents. I think the council/planners rely of this unfair approach in order to push things through in communities as there are only a small number of people who have the time, knowledge and resources to actually argue the points effectively. A huge number of people will not be able to engage with this process, and will find a development on their doorstep and are unable to do anything about it.

So therefore, I will write my thoughts and hope they are considered even though I am sure I have not done it in the 'format' required. I struggled with writing my objections last time when I completed the paperwork, but I hope they will be noted. None of the matters are sound from my reading, and they completely contradict each other. The local plan writes that issues such as air quality, biodiversity, lowering traffic emissions, limit climate change, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents need to be actioned, however building on the western park golf course will serious damage all of these things. This is the only area of green space that anyone in the many surrounding estates can walk to, without getting in the car and further adding to pollution. The space is the only area for any wildlife in a large vicinity. The area has started to flood (last winter where DPD is as one example) and this will be made much worse if all the trees are lost. I understand the need for housing, but there are many brownfield sites that should be considered for housing over this one.

The other issue is then a household waste site was 'added' to the plan. How is this environmentally sound to place this where there are so many people living? The smell, flies, emissions etc - totally inappropriate. I agree there needs to be recycling centres, but not in such a densely populated area.

The same thing that I documented before is that if this area cannot be saved, I do not hold out much hope for the future for the planet. We seem intent on destroying every bit of green space, any chance for nature or biodiversity to flourish. The environmental issues for all those living around this site will be so much poorer in every aspect of health and wellbeing possible if it is developed.

I hope the right decision is made at the hearing, to save the old western park golf course - to the put the planet and everything living on it above making money as this is what I ultimately feel this is about.

Many thanks

Sarah Day