

Dear Councillors, and friend of Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail,

Hope you are all well. I would like to thank Sheffield South East Committee for inviting members of the planning department to the meeting 11th January 2023.

It was good to see that at the last Sheffield South East Committee meeting that both Councillor's and members of the planning department are showing support to designate plot C and D as Wildlife Sanctuary. Councillor Kurtis Crossland asked a very important question: "Basically, what protection will the site have, can the decision be reversed at a later date?" Plot (F) was removed from the original plan to build 500 properties because Sheffield City Council were receiving government funds under the Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. But now it has reappeared in the new draft Local Plans.

Simon Vincent, Sheffield Council's strategic planning service manager presented details of the draft Local Plan, <https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=609&Mid=8482&Ver=4> I did explain that the proposal to build on plot (F) would destroy Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail. This is the first time I have seen the plans. In discussions with members of the planning department before the meeting it was suggested that site (F) is about 22 acres. I was confused as to how you could fit 150 properties into a site that is about the same as site (E) with only room for 74 New Houses. I attached a screenshot of the area in question. <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/images/HELAA.jpg>

If you double click on this image <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/images/Grazing.jpg> it clearly states: "Three fields designated Phase 1, 1a and 2 totalling 22 acres of grassland." I had hoped that all the area from Moor Valley down to Moss Way, as seen on the legend Map, was all covered by the Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.

Under the freedom of information ACT, I have received from Natural England the payment agreement and a map: <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/HigherLevelStewardshipAgreementMap.pdf> The map shows the hedgerows of very high environmental value + grassland. Between 1980 and 2002 Sheffield lost 75.7% of its unimproved grasslands, therefore our grasslands are a valuable environmental resource. The project's objective is to manage our grasslands and safeguard the wildflower and wildlife for future generations to enjoy. The grazing project is part of a programme of strategic planting to link up the green corridors of Sheffield.

I presented evidence to inspector O S Woodward at the hearing regarding plot (F) in Owlthorpe: <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/publicinquiry.htm> If you click on the highlighted topic it brings up the full reports.

To see my full review of the round table event regarding housing supply click on the highlighted text. <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-20roundtableeventregardinghousingsupply.pdf> After watching video Softy Ridge interview with the secretary of State for Environment, George Eustace MP <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbYXEDczL-U> explains the Government's approach to UK flooding: £4bn spending on flood defences. This is supported by the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England who have jointly committed to "nature-based solutions to tackle the climate emergency", to which Ecological Owlthorpe has the potential to make an excellent contribution. I thought the inspector would be interested in a proposal I made to him at this inquiry.

I suggested to the inspector that Avant Homes should move their project to the disused Aerodrome at Norton, which is a Brownfield site by definition boasting many derelict buildings in need of redevelopment. I explained that the MOD may be responsible for removing asbestos from the site. Reported in Sheffield Star March 29th 2021 "Demolition finally gets underway at former air base." Buildings have now been removed, so there is no reason why Avant Homes cannot remove their project to the Aerodrome at Norton.

It is ironic that at the inquiry, Roland Bolton, Strategic Planning Research Unit, Mrs Stephens, Sheffield City Council Mrs Hull, Sheffield City Council all argued that the disused Aerodrome at Norton is greenbelt. Simon Vincent, Sheffield Council's strategic planning service manager now explains it has been included in the new draft Local Plan, with a proposal to build 270 New Homes.

In suggesting Avant Homes move their project to disused Aerodrome at Norton I thought this would be a win win situation for all concerned and would conform with the statement announced by the Secretary of State. Guy Williams Barrister acting for Sheffield City Council thanked me for trying to obtain funding from two separate

government funds. I still believe government funds are available for Upstream nature-based solutions. Please look at <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/ochredyke.htm> **The Ochre Dyke Corridor Flows from its header waters in Birley Wood down to the river Rother.**

As mentioned above, the [interview with Sophie Ridge](#) in February 2020, George Eustace explained that the government's approach to UK flood prevention would consist of an extra £4bn spending on flood defences but also in Yorkshire the creation and support of upstream nature-based solutions. I believe Guy Williams understood how Sheffield City council can benefit from Government funding. **I request the Sheffield South East Committee investigate to see if the Governments would fund The Ochre Dyke Corridor from its header waters in Birley Wood down to the river Rother.** [Please read our editorial in the Yorkshire Bylines.](#) Sheffield campaign calls for protection of upstream environments to stop downstream flooding.

To see my full review of Planning Meeting click on the highlighted text below.

<http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-18ReviewofPlanningMeeting.pdf>

Prior to the public inquiry I requested in a number of correspondences to Holly Dutton, Helen Skinner, George Eustace MP and Robert Jenrick MP that the Government review Sheffield City Council's Planning Meeting on 2nd June 2020. I believe that Sheffield (LPA) may have misled the Government with regards to the true outcomes of this meeting.

At the inquiry, I specifically asked the Planning Inspector that he review the meeting 2nd June 2020. He declined. I personally think this was a dereliction of the Inspector's duties as an independent arbitrator in this inquiry.

However, he did allow me to review the said meeting, which was arranged by Guy Williams, Sheffield City Council Barrister, and Lucy Bond, Area Team Manager.

<http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/EO-18ReviewofPlanningMeeting.pdf>

I was surprised to find that the video evidence from June 2020 had been removed from Sheffield Council's website. The reference number 19/03143/FUL remained the same throughout all enquiries. I thought that all evidence had to be made available to all parties until the Planning Inspector made his decision.

Cllr Chris Rosling- Josephs explained that traffic in the area is horrendous, not only around Crystal Peaks but also in the surrounding area and that a full independent traffic assessment needs to be taken before the council considers any more developments in the area. Colin Walker, Interim Head said **"I think there is a significant risk if you throw Highways impact into this as a reason for refusal and that risk is that you effectively neutralise the site in residential terms."** Why was Highway impact removed from the legal document and not even considered by the Inspectorate?

Follow link <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/SSECEmail.pdf> to see last communication to Jayne Foulds Local Area Committee Manager – South East People Portfolio Sheffield City Council Date:10th February 2023

Follow this link: <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/letters.htm> to see in-depth correspondences with: Sheffield South East Committee, Planning Inspectorate, Parliamentary Ombudsman, Secretary of State Environment, Secretary of State Housing, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, and Coal Authority.

Follow this link: <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/Interpritation.htm> to see the extent of work carried out in the creation of Owlthorpe Heritage and Nature Trail.

Follow this link: <http://ecological-owlthorpe.org/Science.htm> to see what the professionals say.

We do need New Houses, but they need to be built in the right places so that they don't cause downstream flooding. Please follow this link: <https://fishlakefloodbook.co.uk/> **Listen to what villagers of Fishlike say. Sheffield (LPA) needs to take more due care and attention when building upstream.**

Please help save Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail by

Signing our petition to Sheffield City Council: <https://chnng.it/6vXHqcGG4S>

also, our petition to Parliamentary Ombudsman: <https://chnng.it/FPC7X4Ng>

[Click here to see a map showing what is at stake:](#)

(Plot (F) is situated on Moor Valley opposite Diamond Cottages.)

Thank You

Michael Meredith