

## Supplementary Papers - Public Comment 2

### **Re: Extraordinary Growth Scrutiny Committee Meeting – [Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020](#)**

I am writing in regards to the above as a resident of Park Avenue, Glapwell which is the Avenue leading up to the land being proposed for sale. I might also add that to my knowledge there has been no consultation locally in relation to listing of this land for sale.

At the time of writing I am unsure if you are aware of the local interest and support to retain this land as part of the Glapwell community, so I would therefore like to enlighten you as to its use and value to us all.

For over half a century the land has been used by children as a play area, and by local elderly residents to take exercise in a green space enjoying the wildlife on offer. Some residents are unable to make use of the wider green spaces surrounding the village of Glapwell due to mobility or health issues, and this small area of land can offer a valuable contribution to their general health and well-being. One local resident has been using the land from childhood as a play space and now into old age for simple enjoyment and relaxation.

The land is also decorated at various times throughout the year and is of local recognition with neighbouring villages, and is often reported on by the local media during those events. It becomes a spooky wood during the Halloween season and will also be used to facilitate a Santa's grotto throughout December and is a fabulous area to involve all of the community in an annual Easter egg hunt, being a particularly safe space for children to attend.

As you are aware there are several beech trees on the land with an abundance of wildlife taking residence in those trees. Some of the trees are of considerable age and according to the previously commissioned tree survey, some do display elements of disease, however insufficient to warrant the removal of those trees and thereby destroying the homes of various wildlife. The trees are home to bats which of course you are aware are protected species. At the time of the previous tree survey there may have been no bats present, however if no bats were found there could still be possible roost places.

Park Avenue itself is home to many elderly and vulnerable residents with several bungalows sited at the entrance to the avenue. The noise and disruption from heavy goods vehicles carrying out works to create any form of access road will cause considerable upset and distress. The road itself is particularly narrow with reasonable pavement widths in place which allow the use of disabled scooters and prams/pushchairs freely. All of the grass border areas lining the pavements have been tended to and cared for over several years by the Park Avenue residents as the council have abandoned this responsibility over 5 years ago. If any widening of the road was to take place to allow increased vehicular access, this would be at the cost of those resident maintained borders, and wider pavements for disabled users.

Both approved housing developments have sufficient access in place to service all of the households included in the developments. The main entrance to Glapwell nurseries is a huge expanse of space and can easily accommodate heavy goods vehicles during development with limited negative impact to the existing housing community within its immediate vicinity.

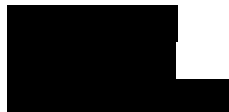
It would make far better sense (if decisions were being made pragmatically and not financially) to use the land already owned by Glapwell nurseries which stretches around the back of the cricket field and pavilion area in the form of a dirt track, leading directly to both new housing developments. I have yet to see any formal documentation detailing the unsuitability of using this dirt track in favour of destroying green space on Park Avenue, and wonder if a suitability survey has even taken place as this would seem to be the natural and simplest course of action to take.

It is unfathomable to understand why BDC would want to ruin a quiet and peaceful road, housing elderly residents and children, remove an abundance of trees housing wildlife, destroying the future of many community events, destroying the benefit to children and elderly to simply create access to a development that already has suitable access in place.

If the decision made was to allow the sale of this land for access, then there would undoubtedly be further questions asked as to the integrity of those decision makers and further probing as to any beneficial interest gained by any individual party involved in the decision making process. The media coverage of the fight Glapwell residents are taking to prevent this sale is gathering pace and public and media interest will continue to grow, as Glapwell residents will make sure that this is a continuing campaign not only locally but are making headway nationally including a petition to prevent the sale.

Finally I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all publicly elected councilors to take into serious consideration the quoted phrase "that people should always come before money, and to retain the faith of the public". We would argue that you have to gain the faith of the public in the first instance, and this whole process from housing application to approval and a subsequent access application made by Glapwell nurseries has severely impacted any good faith that the community of Glapwell has in certain BDC councillors.

Regards  
Three residents at Park Avenue.

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