

## SA01 - Land at the Wheatridge Concerns

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To: Gloucester City Plan <cityplan@gloucester.gov.uk>

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Dear Sir,

I have lived on the Abbeydale estate since 1976. Two designated play areas were on the builders estate plans at Oxmoor, and Merestone Way. The reason why they were not constructed should be investigated, scrutinized, remediated and built for the new generation of children now growing up there.

Local schools close to the field site at the Wheatridge have been upgraded, extended or rebuilt in the case of Upton school. It appears from the policy plan that a school on this site is to facilitate the houses now being built at Winnycroft, Sneedhams Green. The Wheatridge road is only wide enough for 2 cars and has a bus service along it, any additional parking for school "pick ups" could be dangerous and would cause gridlock.

The field adjoining the Ashpath is the last unspoilt flat piece of farmland in the area. It has been in constant use by dog walkers, horse riders, kite flyers and those using it as a pleasant walk to the local shops. With a view to the hills it is a fantastic breathing space, giving a sense of wellbeing, a chance to talk to other walkers and to enjoy nature. The land is unique in that it has not been spoilt, there is an opportunity to improve by wild seeding and the addition of large scale native trees to enhance the environmental quality, encourage nesting and provide habitat for insects, food for the bats which appear in May.

The Ashpath was designated as a wildlife corridor, and despite excess cutting of the grass verges right into the hedgerow many native animals use it. On one early evening in June I observed 7 hedgehogs at the same time in my garden, these were healthy, but I have seen leg injuries which may have been caused by strimming these verges, many make their way in through the hedge. The field is an ideal nature recovery area, and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust may advise as to the tree and plant species suitable to sustain and enhance the area.

The proposal to squeeze in 40-50 houses in this area, each to have frontage of at least six metres for cars, pavements, green areas and a play area with good sized gardens, without overcrowding the existing footpaths seems highly implausible. The views of the hills presently enjoyed along the footpath would be lost. This would have a negative effect on people's health, and environmental quality.

I highly recommend the reconsideration of these plans by all parties involved, as once completed, an important resource for the area will be lost forever. This impacts not just the local residents and passers-through, but also the biodiversity the existing green corridor offers.

Regards,

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