

Georgina Morgan-Denn

Subject: Agenda 11 - Haydon Wick Community Woodland

Thank you for taking the time to submit your concerns.

I will review and present them to Council at the Parks & Open Spaces Committee on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm.

The meeting is open to the public and you are welcome to attend to present your case further and/or listen to the committee's discussion regarding this item.

Our meetings take place at the Parish Council offices on Thames Avenue (opposite Morrisons).

Best wishes
Georgina

RE: Haydon Wick Community Woodland – Objection/Concern

Dear Georgina

We recently received a hand posted letter through our door containing information about changes that the council would like to undertake opposite & to the right of our property if funding is forthcoming.

Please except this e-mail has written notice to our concerns regarding this which we would like clarifications/reassurances on.

1. The Council should be maintaining the area of ground in front of our properties (3 Voyager Drive to 11 Voyager Drive inclusive) which front the main area of proposed woodland – In the 15 years we have lived in the road the council has only maintained these a handful of times & if it was not for ourselves & the other residences looking after these using their own time & financial expense they would make our houses look a right mess – this area when we moved in was also grass but the council then thought it was a good idea to rip that up & replace it with the hideous bushes with out of control brambles etc we have now – our concern is if the council fail to look after a simple hedgerow they won't look after the woodland going forward – this we suspect will happen - the proposal is basically to remove the cost & responsibility of cutting the nice grass area we have now – we would like to know how the council aims to maintain the new areas – allowing it to grow out of control is not a desired option.
2. Over the last few years, we have had a few drugs related & anti-social behaviour problems at the park & also the area over the bridge – (the police are aware of this) – making this area even more hidden & secluded with trees etc we believe would make the situation worse & encourage not deter – the path on the far side for example which has a bench would not be seen from the road by passing police patrols once the planting has reached maturity.
3. You use the word “exciting” in your letter – why !!! – the field opposite is used by the community for children & families for sport (football etc), aerobics, dog owners exercising their dogs throwing balls etc & even picnics on days & evenings – it has also been used by the air ambulance to land for medical emergencies in the past in fact the field as it is now is fully accessible to all – making it a woodland who does this benefit – “the council”
4. The planning permission for the estate was approved on the basis that this area was to be maintained as open space for community use, we bought the property on the understanding that this was going to be the case for the foreseeable future.

I presume the council has looked into this & therefore I suspect a planning permission application for a woodland would not be needed however an environmental impact assessment may be – please clarify - we wouldn't want to impact any wildlife.

5. If these proposals go ahead & let's be honest here they will (because it's all about saving money rather than people) - the main area borders a road to the front – therefore as a matter of health & safety we would not want any planting/trees to be within 3m of the road – a child running from the “woodland” in to the path of a car or lorry would not be good for the child, the driver or the council – therefore I would like to see by return a full planning planting plan with the proposed species of trees & shrubs detailed along with any hardstanding path additions – this is so the residents who this impacts the most can make an honest judgement & be allowed to comment on good or bad.

I would finally like to add that notwithstanding the above concerns we are not against the idea in principal but just throwing together a load of trees, cheap bushes & letting the grass grow out of control, is not something we support – the area needs to be planned & more importantly the upkeep of it needs to be kept up on a regular basis !!! – at present we look out onto a nice area – we do not want to be looking out onto a troubled unkept eye sore in the future.

Yours faithfully

(Resident: Voyager Drive)