

Executive Director Development & Investment
Clarence Arcade
Stamford Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 7PT

Proposed auction of land at Newmarket Grove /Grove St,Ashton-under-Lyne,Tameside OL7 9LJ

Dear Sir(s),

with reference to the proposed auction of the above land.

I wish to voice my objections whole heartedly to the sale of this land & request the proposed sale be stopped.

My objections to the proposals are:

This is the 3rd area of green open space in the Waterloo ward to be sold off within the past year.

This is a direct attack on Waterloo's green open spaces

People buying properties in this area have looked on this green space as an asset.

There has been no prior consultation again with residents before this land was put up for auction.

We are in danger of being robbed of our green open space for short term monetary gain.

This is a valued area of green open space for local residents.

It is a safe haven for children to play without the risk of traffic & local to their parents.

It is used as a recreation area for people of all ages.

The maintenance costs of this area of land to Tameside Council are practically zero.

The building of houses would be an environmental disaster to the flora & fauna plus the large number of healthy tree's which would have to be felled. Amongst the varied wildlife there are bats & species of birds, which are on your Greater Manchester Ecology unit protected species list & are listed on Tameside Council's own website.

Please see the statement below from the Greater Manchester Ecology unit,taken from **Tameside Councils website**, which definitely applies to this area. To auction this land would be contradictory to the beliefs of your ecology unit.

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, but also their genetic variation, and the complex ecosystems of which they are part. It is not restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered.

The world is losing biodiversity at an ever-increasing rate as a result of human activity. In the UK we have lost over 100 species during the last century, with many more species and habitats in danger of disappearing, especially at the local level. On a world scale the rate of loss is now recognised to be a cause for serious concern, requiring concerted international action to prevent continued loss of biodiversity. Local Authorities recognise their responsibilities for contributing to the effective conservation of biodiversity at a local level, to maintain an attractive natural environment and to ensure that the basic ecological services and resources necessary to sustain the well-being, not only of current, but also future generations, are maintained.

Yours Sincerely,

According to local knowledge the land at Newmarket Grove had an ancient hedgerow running through it.

The hawthorns were of an old English variety.

These were felled last year by United Utilities when they installed a sewer pipe to the area.

Could you please explain why this disgusting act of vandalism was allowed to happen prior to this land being put up for auction ??

This shows that Tameside Council is putting small term monetary gain before the environment it should support.