



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

James Morris MP

Halesowen and Rowley Regis

Kevin O'Keefe
Chief Executive
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
The Council House
Priory Road
Dudley
DY1 1HF

Our Ref: JA29636

15th December 2023

Dear Kevin,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Friends of Colley Gate group who have raised concerns around the inclusion of Highfield Green as a prospective location for future housing development in the Dudley Local Plan 2041.

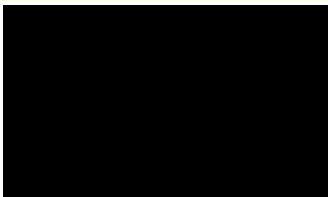
I understand that the Local Authority previously rejected a planning application for the construction of eleven new properties on this piece of land in 2020 on the grounds that it would be detrimental to the visual appearance and character of the area. A similar application was submitted again in 2021, but the plans were subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

The Draft Local Plan identifies green space on Highfield Road and Foredraft Street as a piece of land with potential for eighteen new dwellings. I recognise that the Council must take steps to ensure that housing needs are met across the Dudley borough moving forward, but I do share concerns raised by members of the group and local councillors around the selection of this site and the loss of vital green space in the area.

In my role as Member of Parliament, I visited Highfield Green earlier this year and spoke with residents and members of the Friends of Colley Gate, who explained that they frequently use the land for exercise and relaxation, and they are currently working with the Local Authority to make it more accessible for wheelchair users. As I am sure you will appreciate, the loss of this green space would not only be extremely disappointing for the local community, but it would also be detrimental to the environment and local habitat.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that these concerns have been noted and will be logged as part of the public consultation on the Dudley Local Plan.

Yours sincerely,



James Morris MP

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