



Dudley Planning and Regeneration
Council House
Dudley
DY1 1HF

Re: Dudley Draft Local Plan - Corbett Meadow

This representation is in **support** of the following policies of the Draft (Reg19) Local Plan: -

DLP LGS1 CORBETT MEADOW LOCAL GREEN SPACE

DLP LGS1 Corbett Meadow Local Green Space (LGS)

Amblecote has been eroded by residential development on a large scale over the last 60 years, the landscape being unrecognizable comparing maps of that time, however the Corbett meadow is easily identified being a **natural** green space. Historically used for grazing, after haymaking the community came together on the meadow for the annual fete. Therefore it holds significant recreational and community value with fond memories of those times still spoken about today.

Given the proposed designations of SINC for nature conservation & AHHLV for its high historic landscape and background. This merits a wonderful educational asset on the doorstep of local schools & interested groups, being adjacent to the hospital the tranquility and beauty of the meadow would give an opportunity for use for health and wellbeing. There would be a need to enhance and maintain the meadow, focusing on nature conservation, agriculture and horticulture perhaps for work & health rehabilitation. With managed access the possibilities for future uses are enormous.

The meadow is the last visible remaining part of 'The Hill' estate that John Corbett purchased, it should be retained to be of use for the community, to continue his beliefs and to honour his generous legacy to the people of Stourbridge and Amblecote as it was intended - before its forgotten.

I fully support the designation of Corbett Meadow as a Local Green Space (LGS)

DLP 31 Nature Conservation

The location of Corbett Meadow is rare within an urban area, it has an important connectivity to the Coalbourne Brook Valley designated a SLINC.

The Meadow holds a variety of declining habitats, the historic natural pignut grassland, two ponds, and wetland area, mature/veteran trees, all provide a habitat for mammals, birds, amphibians and insects a place for cover to feed, sleep & breed. These natural habitats are declining countryside wide we need to protect and enhance those that remain, to maintain numbers and to encourage further species that rely on this ecology.

Historically the meadow has been used for grazing and haymaking, any future plans implemented should continue this regime is to maintain the meadow flora.

I fully support the designation of Corbett Meadow as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. (SINC)

DLP 60 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value

With its historic Pignut grassland including pockets of ancient woodland with veteran trees, the undulating landscape of Corbett Meadow is very attractive offering stunning views of historical industrial landmarks. The meadow itself is the last remaining recognizable part of historic Amblecote and the only example left of the areas rural background. On maps prior to the building of 'The Hill' mansion before the mid 1800s the topography of the meadow has remained virtually unchanged to the present day. Using these maps there is the possibility of remains of a Windmill on the highest point by the area known as Windmill Hill. (See document '*The Last Meadow*')

Past owners of 'The Hill' mansion and estate were industrialists, mainly Glasshouse owners, John Grove, Thomas Rogers, George Mills. This last parcel of land must surely be included within the Glass Quarter.

The last purchaser of 'The Hill' was John Corbett born in the nearby vicinity of the Delph he had a humble upbringing from canal carrying to becoming extremely wealthy in the salt industry. He never forgot where he came from, his intention was to give something back to the people of Stourbridge and surrounding areas, he achieved this by purchasing the 32acre (12.94 hectares) 'Hill' estate in Amblecote and converting it into a hospital.

A vast proportion of the estate has already lost to housing, what remains of the estate is the historic meadow of 14 acres (5.72 hectares). This unique area must remain in the heart of an extremely built up area; it is an irreplaceable natural / heritage asset, if managed for all to enjoy.

