

Comments for Planning Application 143413/FO/2025

Application Summary

Application Number: 143413/FO/2025

Address: Land Bound By Longford Road, Peveril Crescent, Rye Bank Road And Longford Park (commonly Referred To As Ryebank Fields) Manchester M21 9WW

Proposal: Change of use of former university playing fields to community woodland and meadow.

Case Officer: Robert Griffin

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am writing to support the proposal to transform Ryebank Fields into a community woodland and meadow. As a US-based anthropologist who studies how people value and interact with landscapes in northern England, I see Ryebank Fields as a remarkable urban green space—one that has rewilded naturally and now plays an important role in local life. Below I outline four reasons for my support

First, Ryebank Fields is a model of urban rewilding. It already supports diverse habitats of woodland, scrub, and grassland. Protecting and enhancing it as a community woodland would secure these ecological benefits while providing a template for nature recovery in cities. Low-intervention management and community participation could make it a leading example of urban rewilding—supporting biodiversity, improving air quality, and helping Manchester meet its climate goals.

Second, it is a place that strengthens community. My research with residents shows that Ryebank Fields is more than open land—it's a social space where people connect through walks, gatherings, and creative activities. Turning it into a community woodland would reinforce this role by creating new opportunities for education, volunteering, and well-being. It's exactly the kind of shared space that helps urban neighborhoods stay resilient and connected.

Third, making Ryebank into a community woodland and meadow would honor Manchester's commitments and the original purpose of the gift. Manchester has committed to building housing on brownfield sites and protecting remaining green spaces. Preserving Ryebank as a community woodland honors that principle. The land was originally given to Manchester Metropolitan University for educational and recreational use; returning it to a community purpose upholds that

intent and ensures the benefits of this landscape remain public and inclusive.

Finally, establishing a community woodland and meadow at Ryebank Fields would leave a lasting legacy-a place where nature, people, and learning can thrive together. In a city facing both housing pressure and environmental strain, this project offers a hopeful model for how development and nature recovery can coexist.

For these reasons, I strongly support the plan to make Ryebank Fields a community woodland and meadow.