

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: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I support this planning application for the following reasons:

Ryebank Fields is a well-used public amenity central to community connection; events and celebrations for over 50 years. It's a place that brings people together but also feels safe to find solitude in due to its accessibility and proximity to the local neighbourhood. A place to promote and nurture mental health and well being through connection with nature.

Ryebank Fields is rich in ecology and biodiversity. MCC has declared a Climate Emergency and this should be central to every decision the council makes. Ryebank Fields is unique in that it has rewilded for over 30 years; is home to rare and protected species and the ecosystems and habitat it supports are well-established and cannot be replaced elsewhere.

The land is populated by over 1500 trees with special features e.g. the native Black Poplar, one of the UK's rarest trees; an Aspen Grove unique in a city environment; hybrid Black Poplars with the cultural significance of being planted by Enriqueta Rylands, third wife of John Rylands, and founder of the world famous Rylands Library; a plantation of Millenium Oaks first planted by a local resident in 2000 to combat the effects of climate change and a Community Orchard, started by and planted in memory of a local resident.

Ryebank Fields is steeped in history and heritage. The Nico Ditch crosses the land from east to west, an ancient earthwork, akin to Offa's Dyke and dating to around 800 AD, which marks the boundary between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria.

A strong and enduring local connection: Ryebank Fields has been nurtured by the community for

over 30 years with local residents acting as custodians of the land. Ryebank Fields satisfies the criteria to be designated as Local Green Space. In the first consultation period for Manchester's Local plan there was an overwhelming response by the people with over 44% of responses advocating for this designation.