

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 strongly in favour of this proposal to keep Ryebank Fields as a community woodland and meadow. The fields are a rare, rewilded green space in Manchester, where there is already such a shortage of accessible natural land. They provide an invaluable haven for biodiversity, with trees, wildflowers, birds, bats, and mammals thriving there, and to lose that would be a tragedy.

The fields also play a vital role in tackling the climate and flooding challenges we face. They soak up heavy rainfall and act as a natural carbon sink, helping to clean the air and cool the surrounding area. Building on this land would strip away those protections and make localised flooding and air quality problems much worse.

There is also the serious issue of pollution beneath the site. Disturbing contaminated ground would release toxic material into the air, creating a real health risk for everyone living nearby, especially the children at the school next door. Leaving the land undisturbed is by far the safest and most responsible course of action.

Beyond these practical concerns, Ryebank Fields is a place of peace and wellbeing. It offers space to walk, reflect, and connect with nature—a vital source of respite for local people. During lockdowns it was a lifeline, and it continues to be a sanctuary in difficult times. The fields also hold deep community and cultural value, from the Millennium Oaks and the orchard to the ancient Nico Ditch and the magical Aspen Grove.

To destroy all this would be an irreversible loss. Preserving Ryebank Fields for people, wildlife, and future generations is the only sensible and sustainable option.