

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 support this application to use and enhance Ryebank as a true, long-term, sustainable haven and provide health, well-being and simple pleasures to all its neighbours and visitors.

I support it as a local, a naturalist and as someone passionate about the importance of access to proper, wild greenspace for local people - not just manicured parks or pockets of street trees but rarer, nature-filled places like Ryebank Fields. Scientists, researchers and Governments around the world recognise how invaluable such sites are in our society in reducing stress, giving people perspective, bringing them together in a positive environment, and providing opportunities to connect through their appreciation of and interaction with its wildlife and natural space.

This kind of wild space has taken many years to mature, and its maturity now holds immense potential to become even better - really contribute to Nature Recovery in our area. This is not some pocket park you can just recreate down the road to offset its loss - it's a rare opportunity to make something really special. I have personally recorded hundreds of species in its woods and fields - seen common and uncommon birds breeding and feeding, bats hunting as they fly through, noticed many mammal signs, identified and enjoyed different butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, hoverflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers and many other invertebrate species. Not to mention the plant, tree and fungi species regularly encountered.

A few short years of targeted management would easily bring this site selection as a Site of Biological Importance grassland with associated woodland and hedgerow habitats. There are species associated in the quality grassland onsite which have not been recorded anywhere else in Manchester district. Most of Manchester's Biodiversity Action Plan indicator species have been recorded onsite, many of them resident. Supporting this well thought-out and achievable plan will

create a stand-out example achievement for Manchester council to celebrate in its declared efforts to tackle our biodiversity crisis, and deliver its Local Nature Recovery commitments. To allow the site to be lost to development instead would destroy all its special wildness, and discard all that potential for greater social benefit and biodiversity.

Please do the right thing by this site, not the short-term financially-appealing one.