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To: Consultations
Subject: Formal Objection To Policy N1 (Merton Park)

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To the Planning Policy Team

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development at Merton Park (Policy N1 in the Draft Local Plan), on what is an orchard. An orchard that provides a healthy ecosystem for a huge variety of creatures, including birds already on the red endangered list. It forms part of the lungs of Wincheap (along with the Rec), adding not only to air quality but the mental health of many who regularly walk the pathways, enjoying the peaceful sights and sounds of nature.

Once it is destroyed, it can never be replaced.

The other major issue with such a huge building project is the lack of infrastructure, especially the site access.

All the potential access roads are narrow, in places only one car wide and already severely congested.

How is the multiple HGV site traffic going to be managed and get access to the site, this will not only cause huge disruption, causing increased congestion to all the surrounding roads., but also damage the existing road network. Not only causing chaos, air quality (already rated as poor at the junction of Hollow Lane and Wincheap) would deteriorate further.

There is no provision for managing the volume of HGV traffic, plus Hollow Lane has a 7.5 ton weight restriction and is very narrow.

Basically by removing the previously planned A2 slip road, this whole development is untenable and as a Wincheap resident unliveable. It also has the knock on effect of removing the only large open green space in the area, the Rec and turning it to concrete! An equally appalling idea.

The primary school on Hollow Lane would also be affected, not just by the dangerous volume of additional traffic, but by the fumes and dust generated. A new primary school in the plan is also not guaranteed, as the one planned for Thannington is evaporating now the Saxon Field site is occupied. Plus, what about the children of secondary school age, there is no provision for them.

I strongly object to this unsound and unworkable policy and the negative impact for those who live in the area.

Please rethink or abandon it.

Yours faithfully
Lynn Lacey

