

24 Sept 2013

Loss of Public Open Space

Summary

Sales of small areas of Public Open Space are taking place and in order to reduce the cumulative loss of space it is recommended that the LAF advise the Council that it considers that such losses should be offset by replacement land.

Recommendation

That the LAF advise the Council that it is concerned at the incremental loss of open space. While, in accepting the sale of some land can be beneficial, we would advise them that we would prefer a land swap be arranged, or where that is not possible a fund be created into which the proceeds from any land sale be put, in order that new open space can be purchased when opportunities permit

Background

Recently there have been two notices in the local newspaper notifying the public of a sale of public open space. While the sale of odd parcels of open space is not particularly significant and can be helpful to local residents and businesses, I am concerned at the cumulative effect of this loss of open space. While I feel we should not object in principle to sales, it would seem wise to advise the Council that we are concerned at the incremental loss of open space. While, in accepting the sale of some land can be beneficial, we would advise them that we would prefer a land swap be arranged, or where that is not possible a fund be created into which the proceeds from any land sale be put, in order that new open space can be purchased when opportunities permit. In this way there would not be net losses of open space in the longer term and a more beneficial distribution of open space could also be achieved. It is accepted that redevelopment opportunities can bring an increase in open space but these are not guaranteed and may not be in the places where open space is at a premium, and so the area of existing space should be protected.

Richard Brooks

23 August 2013