

I would like to thank the Mayor and Officers for listening to my presentation on 14th May last. Owing to time constraints I was unable to respond to some of the comments made and the suggestion that this development is just "an idea".

In the first instance, "the idea" has been in the pre-planning stage since 2019, 4 years **AND** has been budgeted for. Councils of whatever political persuasion only budget for concrete plans.

The second comment was ".....it's only going to be 4.4 hectares. That is a substantial proportion of Whiston Woods and its complex ecosystem.

There appears to be a radical lack of understanding of what an ecosystem actually is. It is defined as "*A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment*".

Let me explain that in layman's terms. Every living thing in that environment, be it plant or animal is dependent on the other species to some greater or lesser extent in order to survive. If you remove part of it then the ecosystem collapses. The plants need insects for pollination as the insects need plants for food. Birds eat the insects and seeds and so on and so forth up the food chain.

Birds will only nest where there are suitable nesting sites and sufficient food to raise their young. This is particularly significant where those birds are endangered. Mammals likewise need not just a suitable den site but sufficient food/prey items to survive. Amphibians and other aquatic life forms need water to live in and the other species for drinking. I could go on but hopefully that is sufficient to paint a picture.

I believe we are also in need of a history lesson. Since the commencement of the industrial revolution, the human race has almost outpaced itself. We have carried out the systematic destruction of our own environment in the name of progress and development. Some part of this has been out of necessity to provide homes, some out of ignorance but sadly a lot of it from sheer greed.

The latter could well be applied to Knowsley Borough Council who on more than one occasion have sold off green belt for housing against the wishes of their own constituents. Their desire to use Whiston Woods is, I'm reliably informed brought about by selling the land initially designated for the cemetery

extension for development. There appears to be a pattern here!

However, we can no longer plead ignorance as a few strokes of a computer keyboard will enlighten both the ignorant and the inquisitive. Scientifically proven fact should and must outweigh the mindset of those who think "Well this is a good idea". The will of the Community affected by this "idea" must take precedence and outweigh it.

Had the views of the community been sought when the "idea" first came to the forefront it is highly unlikely that it would have got as far as it has. The residents of Whiston are totally opposed to the destruction of this site, for that is what will happen if Knowsley Borough Council get their way. They have been completely disingenuous in their dealings with this matter so far.