

Dear Sir /Madam

I have recently heard Coach Road/Silverdale allotments be referred to by the council as 'A waste site'. I can all most understand the naivety of that claim, usually made by people who have no real idea of the value of this land to the local community and wildlife. For the people who do not live in this area and have very little to do with it, it seems almost unimportant. For the people who have been touched by this simple piece of green space it is a very different story.

Yes this land is privately owned, and yes a majority of the owners and indeed developers see little more then hard cash, which could explain why these plots have been sat on for many years. Allowed to be overgrown and refusals made to members of the public, who would have dearly loved to have used these plots as allotments just as Jonathan Peate a well respected local businessman, and may I add a blue plaque holder in Guiseley Nunroyd Park, originally intended them to be used. I do not blame the allotment holders for thinking this way, at the end of the day they are entitled to think what they wish. BUT at what cost to the rest of the community? This is a seriously volatile subject for many people. The effects on the residents of the Silverdale estate alone are far greater then the council is prepared to admit. These are the people who cannot bury their heads in the sand and ignore the massive impact to their every day lives. On this site alone the proposal is for thirty two houses to be built on half of the allotments. That in effect is between seventy to one hundred cars, maybe more, that will help to congest Silverdale Road and surroundings roads on A DAILY basis. Along with the proposals for the Coach Road fields this is a preposterous idea to say the least. Try to visualise this beautiful green belt and green space area swamped in bricks and concrete. Unless you have taken a true look at this area you would find the horror felt by many, hard to envisage.

I do realise that as privately owned land the council may feel that its' hands are tied as to what could be done here. Some owners will steadfastly refuse to allow anything to be done with their land, but this works hand in hand with the natural progression of what is truly a wildlife oasis on the allotment area. We have many visits from a wide variety of birds (kestrels, curlew and barn owls to name a tiny few) frogs and toads use the area as a safe hideaway, the common hedgehog nest here (which can only assist the vastly decreasing number of this species) Foxes visit and breed their young, some have even seen deer at the top of the site. Not to mention pipestrelle bats, this doesn't even touch the wider aspects including the differing flora and fauna.

Over time we have lost many of the factory and mills that formed the community of Guiseley. Peates Mill is now a retail park, so is the old Shires site. Silvercross, Crompton Parkinsons, Springhead Mills the dye works on Church Street, The Drop Inn public house and now the site of the dairy are all new housing of one sort or another. The full time jobs that gave many a Guiseley resident a salary are no more. The part time and sometimes 0 hour contracts that have replaced these industries in the aforementioned retail parks are no where near enough to support a single person let alone families. This again has a knock on effect to the commuting that Guiseley is literally groaning under. The retail parks themselves ironically have the same effect.

Only in April this year Oxford Road was closed for two weeks to replace collapsed water/sewerage pipes beneath the ground As well constructed and hardy as they were, they too were not made to support the over crowded infrastructure that Guiseley has become. This once quiet town is suffering beneath the surface as well as on top.

Original residents of Guiseley are forced to watch as their children move away unable to afford to reside in the area due to the house prices, Commuters and affluent retirees have taken their place. A fifteen thousand pound annual salary will only afford a fifty five

thousand pound mortgage; this I very much doubt will be enough to secure an 'affordable home' in this area.

I do not accept that there are exceptional circumstances to warrant any more building in this area and I like many others do not accept that taking away what beautiful green space and green belt we have left for profit hungry developers to destroy is the way forward. You know as well as the rest of us that there are other options for the council to take, this may affect profit, but it is the way forward. Don't close your ears to the many, simply to line the pockets of the few.

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