

I am shocked by much of what is set out in the Draft Plan. In particular I am dismayed by the plans to reduce further local areas of green space. These are an essential part of what gives the area its character. Too much has been lost in recent years and further erosion must not be allowed. I notice that there are definite proposals for new building in the plan whilst there are only vague statements of good intention rather than specific proposals for improving the environment. It is essential that green space is protected to support the mental health of those who live in an urban landscape.

In that connection, I am dismayed to learn that the Sainsburys site in Green lanes may suffer redevelopment. Promises were made by the Council in the past that this would not happen, that the site would not be developed further and that the green space there would be secure. There can be no trust in politicians who behave like this. Further building just there will completely destroy a space that was once a green playing field.

In this context, the healthy recreation space that is needed to support urban living is also under threat in the plans to takeover space on the other side of Green Lanes. The proposal for a crematorium there is damaging again and will bring extra traffic on the surrounding roads that cannot be accommodated without a great deal of disruption to other activity.

In general, it is absurd to continue to build more and more residential accommodation in the area, with planning also permitting an increasingly intensive use of space in the borough, without the increases in infrastructure, such as roads and schools and health facilities, which such expansion requires. Roads are already jammed, exacerbated by other Council measures, health facilities overburdened and school places locally are often unavailable. The quality of life is deteriorating and much in these proposals will worsen the situation.