From: Anna Bertram [redacted]
Sent: 22 August 2021 20:35
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: Local Plan
Attachments: Charnwood Local Plan - Objection to plans HA16 & HA17.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find a letter attached detailing our objections to elements of the new local plan.

Kind Regards,

Anna Bertram and John Golding

[redacted]

Charnwood Borough Council Planning Department,
Southfields,
Loughborough
LE11 2TX

11th August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37

The Outwoods and Jubilee Woods is one of the most beautiful areas of countryside in Leicestershire. It is well recognised that these ancient woods are very special, not only due to its outstanding geology, flora and fauna but also because of the peace and tranquillity it offers visitors. As you stand on the edge of the woods and look down over the town, the peacefulness you experience is one of the things that makes the area so special. The feeling that you've 'escaped' the town and the bustle of everyday life is what makes it so special. Many people, myself included, visit the Outwoods almost daily for physical, mental and spiritual enjoyment and relaxation.

HA16 & HA17 will bring building even closer to this special area putting more pressure on the local eco system. It will also eat away further at the countryside surrounding Loughborough which is essential for the wellbeing of us all. Much more of the Beacon Bridleway will be built on and around further reducing the access to the countryside.

As part of the Wildlife and Countryside Act English Nature has designated the Outwoods and Jubilee Woods (along with Hangingstone Golf Course and Beacon Hill Country Park) a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The **Charnwood Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2028** specifically highlights the aim of conserving and enhancing this beautiful and ancient landscape for future generations, stating that it will:

'*manage and promote the unique natural and cultural heritage features of Charnwood Forest, and for the Park to be recognised as an essential part of the growing communities in the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham area, now and in the future.'*

The Charnwood Open Spaces Strategy also states that it will protect and enhance the biodiversity and heritage stating that:

'Open space has never been more important than it is today. In the face of new environmental, social and economic challenges, it is essential to our quality of life, our health and well-being

and to ensuring a more sustainable future for all. Creation, protection and improvement of a high quality open space network should be at the heart of every authority's vision for an area.'

A survey of visitors to the Outwoods highlighted the importance of the air of peace and tranquillity of the area as one of the major attractions. If further development goes ahead moving suburbia and all the pressures it brings even closer to the Woods this will be lost.

One of the core principles of the **National Policy Planning Framework** states that:

'Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value.'

Anybody living on the southwest side of Loughborough is all too well aware of the issues we have with flooding, as a result of rainwater draining from the hill sides from the Outwoods. This was highlighted in the local search when we moved into Cricket Lane. There are many drainage ditches and channels which have been introduced to help manage the influx of water which occurs during heavy rainfall but these are not always sufficient. In recent times houses were flooded in the Valley Road/Woodbrook Road area. Fields offer a perfect soak away for water, covering more land further uphill with tarmac and houses will further increase the flood risk potentially making it a much more regular occurrence.

In addition to the threat to the Outwoods and the issues of flooding there is also the very serious issue of transportation. The roads in the areas are already very congested and further development would introduce many more cars into the area, massively exacerbating this problem. In the evening rush hour traffic using Snells Nook Lane to access the forest side of Loughborough is often solid all the way back to Ashby Road, making this short journey into a 20 minute queue. There are similar problems in the morning leaving Loughborough on Nanpantan Road. There have been suggestions that a bypass could be built which would link Nanpantan Road with Quorn, this would introduce air and noise pollution right into the heart of our beautiful landscape (detailed above) which would threaten the wildlife, flora and fauna of this ancient beauty spot to a critical point.

When Alan Moss and George Harry Bowler very generously bequeathed this beautiful landscape to the people of Loughborough and the surrounding area their intention was that we, the people of Loughborough and the Council, should protect and nurture the area: this plan flies in the face of this intention.

We owe it to Alan Moss, George Harry Bowler, the people of Loughborough and future generations to ensure the preservation and enhancement of this unique and very special area. Therefore I strongly object to proposed development, HA16 & HA17.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Dr Anna Bertram and Mr John Golding