

(Objects)

Comment submitted Mon 07 Dec 2015

I am 20 years old and as a teenager growing up in Cottingham I would like to raise my objections and disappointment to the proposed housing development on the land off Bury Close in Cottingham. I intend to keep my letter short and selfishly focus on the detrimental impact of the development from a teenagers' perspective. I am not interested in property values and I don't understand planning laws, water tables or infrastructure requirements.

As a child I would take my dog for walks in the field behind Bury Close and walk along the Jurassic Way to look across the village at the views across the Welland Valley. On sunny evenings and weekends my friends would walk from Corby to visit and we would go to Jurassic Way to sit, talk and chill. It would be so peaceful and relaxing, we could escape from the pressures of studying and school life. Sometimes we would just sit quietly enjoying the view, listening to the birds and watching the squirrels, rabbits, pheasants and other wildlife. It was somewhere safe our parents would allow us to go knowing we would stay out of trouble.

Being within walking distance of Corby the Jurassic Way footpath is a perfect piece of British countryside for the whole borough to enjoy, not just the village residents. The view is breathtakingly beautiful.

When the 70+ houses are built the view will be ruined. The Jurassic Way will still be there but without the view there will be no point making the walk. The new view would be over numerous rooftops which won't be very inspiring. The close proximity of the new houses will affect the peace and tranquillity and overall atmosphere of the walk. I can't visualise my friends and I returning if the development goes ahead which would be a shame as I would have liked to take my future children as would my friends. A great loss for the whole community.

Teenagers always get bad press for hanging around shopping centres, bus stops and childrens play areas, for not socialising, not exercising and playing too many computers games. If you take away the special outdoor spaces we find and adopt as our refuges away from modern life, places of beauty where we can dream, be inspired and escape, places we choose to relax and spend our free time?where can we go?

I am writing this letter because once this view has gone it can NEVER be retrieved. It'll be lost for ever. It saddens me to think that future generations won't enjoy similar lazy summers.

Extracts from this excellent letter were read out by Jane Smith, Editor of Cottingham and Middleton News, at Corby Borough Council's Development Control Committee meeting on 26 January 2016