

Examination of the Erewash Core Strategy Review

Respondent Ref No 526

Paul Harvey 

Addendum to original statement submitted on 5 December 2023.

This relates to a relevant issue arising in March this year and therefore subsequent to my original statement.

Maintaining that the council has failed in its duty to consult with residents and thereby ignoring their concerns is not a matter Green Squeeze takes lightly, however, in the past few months the council have provided a breath-taking example of just that.

In March this year many residents of an area some distance from Kirk Hallam understandably objected to proposals to build on the Peewit golf course, expressing a preference that at considerable expense it should be 're-wilded' instead.

Current majority councilor Harrison Broadhurst, said in the local press that there had been, "a staggering turnout" over the issue at the recent meeting of the scrutiny committee. He had received 401 objections and added: "Due to the enormous public concern, I strongly support recommending it to go back to the council executive".

In light of those objections the matter was returned to the executive and plans for the development of the golf course were rescinded, something that Green Squeeze members found incredulous and for this reason.

Two years previously and using the council's own response forms, on the 9th of May 2022 Green Squeeze physically delivered 2,901 objections from Kirk Hallam residents to the council. Hundreds more were delivered by hand or sent by email directly to the council offices.

Unlike Peewit this was indeed a truly 'staggering' number of objections, again the message could not have been clearer. Over half of the communities 6,000 residents objected to proposals to build over a thousand houses and a road in their green belt, a stunningly beautiful medieval landscape once owned and tended by the monks of Deepdale. Its value to Erewash or even Derbyshire as a whole is incomparable to a modern golf course.

That said with the objections safely delivered to the town hall on that date in May 2022, (please see attached time and date stamped image)they,

like Lord Lucan, Shergar and Malaysia flight 370 were never heard of again.

In that instance there was no re-evaluation or about-turn despite over half of the Kirk Hallam community being firmly against the council's proposals.

However, even a deafening silence can tell us a considerable amount and in this instance, the about turn on Peewit is speaking volumes.

Firstly, large housing estates do not get built in the more gentrified and politically sensitive areas of Erewash, Kirk Hallam meanwhile is an area frequently and mistakenly considered as a council estate.

Secondly, even in these supposedly enlightened times residents of less affluent areas, such as Kirk Hallam, are simply ignored by the very people elected to represent residents of the borough regardless of political affiliation, class, status or affluence.

Photo:

L to R Green Squeeze members Margaret Bannister, Beverly Harrison and Paul Harvey delivering 2,901 objections to Erewash Borough Council offices on 9th of May 2022.