

From: [Ellenbrook Area Residents Association EARA](#)
To: [Joanna Vincent](#); [Brenda Taplin](#)
Subject: Residents statement - Rita Burhouse
Date: 22 November 2021 23:51:51

To the Inspector presiding over Aerodrome Enquiry

It concerns us considerably that Brett is requesting that its 2021 application to quarry Ellenbrook Fields is to be considered along with the inquiry into its 2016 version. There have been considerable events in our lives during the last two years and we ask the inspector to ensure that the public is given opportunity to provide feedback on these, by not allowing this compression of process to go ahead.

The first event, still continuing of course, is the onset of Covid and the physical and mental health benefits that Ellenbrook Fields have surely provided for people living nearby. Prior to Covid, Ellenbrook Fields has been well used for years by walkers, cyclists, dog walkers, well attended Park Run on Sundays, orienteering training for youngsters, children's play area etc.

During Covid lockdowns the number of users went up by a huge factor every day of the week. It is still high at weekends.

There is considerable and respectable research showing that exercise, particularly in conveniently situated green spaces, has a strong correlation with both physical and mental health. Ellenbrook Fields currently provides that for free to the public, the councils and the health service.

(Ref 1: Associations between green/blue spaces and mental health across 18 countries.
Published in Nature April 2021

Ref 2: Urban green spaces and health - a review of evidence (2016)

Published by the World Health Organisation)

The second event is COP26. We request the inquiry to consider the long term consequences of its decisions, as COP26 requires. Ellenbrook Fields is re-wilding naturally with increased vegetation and wild life and could be assisted considerably by tree planting with the £2,000,000 plus indexing that Arlington is obliged to provide according to its long outstanding section 106 obligation and is obtusely avoiding. It could be actively developed as a carbon sink, benefitting all, over the long term and help Hertfordshire County Council achieve its aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. COP26 stresses that such positive action is important during the next 10 years. We cannot wait for promises of re-

landscaping (ie starting the area's climate mitigation from scratch) phased over the latter end of Brett's projected 35 year timescale. Furthermore Woodland Trust makes clear that trees need to mature for at least 30 years before acting as effective carbon sinks. These timescales contradict.

(Ref 3: Climate change – the Woodland Trust's position. Published 2019)

In conclusion, we understand the inquiry has to weigh up many aspects, but the 2 benefits I have highlighted are even more important when considering Brett's 2021 planning application than they were at the time of their 2016 application. Residents I speak to see gravel digging on Ellenbrook Fields as destruction of a free, valuable health and climate mitigating asset on their doorstep. Most certainly, we want the 2021 Brett application to be examined independently and thoroughly, so that our opinions can be fully articulated and heard. Considering it at the same time as this inquiry will not be acceptable to the public.

Rita Burhouse 22 Nov 2021

On behalf of the EARA Committee

Local residents trying to preserve our community and local environment for future generations with no political affiliation. Website - www.ellenbrookresidents.org

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