**Public comment for Full Council:**

Can I please make a public comment for the following items on the Full Council agenda:

**54.2bvi  Town Infrastructure Investment Plan**

In the section 'Expected Growth' it states that "The Neighbourhood Development Plan will not bring forward any additional residential development sites."

Why not?  In drafting the site analysis of the old Lowestoft Hospital for the NDP, it has been pointed out that land off Leisure Way in Gunton has already been levelled and provided with an access road from the roundabout at the entrance to the Tesco supermarket and petrol station.  A recent re-application for planning permission for housing was quite illogically refused by the Planning Committee.

There are other odd sites in North Lowestoft that could possibly be considered:-

* The strip of land between Fir Lane and Millenium Way that was firmly rejected after concerted opposition by local residents.
* The area of open ground in Love Road, that was rejected as a Local Green Space by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group because it could be developed for housing.
* There have long been unsubstantiated rumours that Crown Meadow football ground might be sold off for housing development.

Perhaps councillors for wards in South Lowestoft are aware of pockets of land with potential for housing.

With respect to the North of Lowestoft Garden Village, it was reported in the Great Yarmouth Mercury recently that Norfolk County Council has applied for formal planning permission to build a Lidl supermarket, a care home scheme, and 240 out of an allocation of 500 houses to the south of Links Road, Gorleston, along the A47 from the Beacon Park roundabout.

Houses are already being built on the north side of Hopton, and planning permission has been granted for another estate on the south side of the village as far as the county boundary.  If Suffolk County Council proceeds with its Garden Village northward from Corton Long Lane on prime agricultural land, there will be ribbon development virtually along all of the east side of the A47 between North Lowestoft and Gorleston, in contravention of all concepts of post-war Green Belts and buffer zones.

**58.2a  WildEast - Gunton Community Park**

The proposed area, currently fenced, was begun as a community garden belonging to a Friend's Group.  Immediately before the pandemic lockdown, there was a suggestion to utilize this patch of land for a gardening club attached to the adjacent Gunton Resident Hall, with possible involvement from local schools.  The photographs that were circulated last week showing the dramatic  transformation of the YMCA allotment shows what can be achieved.

At a recent council meeting it was agreed that this fenced area should not be left wild as a haven for vermin, because of its close proximity to houses in Hollingsworth Road and Montgomery Avenue.  There is vehicular access to both north and south sides, which facilitates the fly-tipping that is clearly evident.

Norse already does not mow patches of ground in the south-eastern quadrant of the park.  Any further wilding should be developed here, and not in the abandoned community garden.

**59.4  Wherry Lines CRP**

I will declare a non-pecuniary interest in this issue, being a committee member of the East Suffolk Travel Association, and a member of Railfuture.

Whilst supporting the proposal to donate £500 p.a. to the Wherry Lines CRP, which covers the lines from Great and Lowestoft to Norwich, in fairness it is proposed that a similar sum be offered to the North Line Group of East Suffolk Lines CRP, which covers the railway to Ipswich from Lowestoft via Beccles.

eastsuffolklines.co.uk

Many thanks

Colin Butler

Cllr St Margaret's East Ward

Lowestoft Town Council