**RESPONDING TO DEVELOPER CONSULTATION - OCTOBER 2024**

**NB DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1st** – ‘Done’ is better than ‘None’ – even just a simple statement of opposition is valuable at this point. The planning arguments will be more important later.

The survey is in three parts, two demographic questions, four multiple choice, and a free text box.

1. **Demographic questions** - From the previous report, it appears that they are attempting to scrape information from these questions that they can use to characterise responses in a certain way - it's up to you how you respond to those age and tenure questions, it is possible to leave them blank / choose 'prefer not to say' if you prefer.

2. **Multiple choice questions**. We advise responding to all of these, as leaving them blank could be interpreted either way (ie as 'not opposing'). The answers are on a spectrum 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'. In general a 'strongly disagree' is likely to reflect the views of most of us. They are:

* "The proposals are an improvement on the previous scheme"
* "The plans for 120 homes at Ryebank represent an inclusive and diverse new community, making it safe for future generations"
* "The community green spaces and retention of the majority of the woodland, including the Aspen Grove, will deliver a sustainable environment for all to enjoy"
* "Overall, I support the design of the new neighbourhood included in the proposals"

3. **Free Text box** - here's your chance to say what you really think! Our planning consultants advised us not to provide them with information, or to comment on the \*detail\* of the plans. This only plays to their narrative and gives them opportunities to deflect from the real question of ‘should the Fields be built on at all?’.

If you are opposed to development whatever form it took, that's all you really need to say at this point. You may wish to give information to back up why you are opposed in principle, for example:

* Ryebank Fields are an irreplaceable rewilded space, home to multiple species of flora and fauna and a maturing ecosystem developed over decades and continuing to evolve.
* They're a significant carbon sink, heat sink (has a cooling effect in Summer), clean air qualities and a flood attenuation 'sponge'. These are sometimes collectively known as 'ecosystem services'.
* Ryebank Fields are Greenfield, and there are existing Brownfield sites yet to be developed even within the local area, eg 200 homes at Chorlton District centre, 1000s of new homes nearby in Old Trafford and Stretford. Click here for [Map in progress - NB not yet completed](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=53.44879623082731%2C-2.2821088640625065&z=14&mid=1ozxv1_hRCqjlbv_nRNKWlVHUQg5xrs8).
* The Manchester Core Strategy and associated Open Spaces audit highlighted a significant 'nature deficit' in South Manchester and the need to preserve natural and semi natural green spaces.
* The draft Manchester Local Plan consultation in 2020 received an overwhelming response that Ryebank Fields should be protected as a Local Green Space. We will upload the updated version of our LGS submission as it's packed with information about why the Fields are so valuable to the Local Community.

This is just a selection - if you'd like more detail or there are other points you'd like to raise but unsure of evidence base, do contact us by email at @ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com and we'll do our best to help.