

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

Cllr John Chilver
Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway Offices
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8FF



23rd December 2024

Dear Mr Chilver

Re: Sale of Mansfield Farm and realising opportunities for community and environmental benefit

We note that the Council plans to sell (on a 99-year lease) Mansfield Farm to Welcome Break for construction of a Motorway Service Area,

If the Council chooses to proceed with the sale, we believe this will have unintended consequences that have a severe and permanent impact on local people and visitors from across the wider region:

- Iver Environment Centre is a long established community-led asset that does vital work. The construction of a Motorway Service Area immediately next door will make its continued operation impossible because of the resulting noise and pollution.
- This proposal cuts into a narrow part of the Colne Valley Regional Park and Green Belt around Iver between the large urban areas of Uxbridge and Slough. It affects food production and permanently removes the opportunity for a much-needed east to west green active travel route between Uxbridge, Black Park and Iver Heath.
- Disposal of land that is safeguarded by national planning policy, local planning policy, the 1938 Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act, Colne Valley Regional Park and public ownership *without commensurate improvement of what remains* sets a worrying precedent in that it fails to benefit the communities and environment that will bear the considerable brunt of this development.

Therefore, to address the huge and undeniably adverse impact on people and the environment, we ask Buckinghamshire Council to:

- Work with Welcome Break to use the substantial proceeds from the disposal of Mansfield Farm and CIL revenue from the Motorway Services to relocate and continue operation of Iver Environment Centre, and to improve the remaining parts of the Colne Valley Regional Park for the benefit of residents and visitors to this part of Buckinghamshire.

Colne Valley Park Trust
Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

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- Use the remainder of the council's huge landholding in the Colne Valley (see appendix) for the purposes that it was originally brought into public ownership in the 1930s-1960s, including food production, recreation and wildlife. We would expect any future disposals to make a significant financial contribution to improving remaining green belt, and designed in such a way that the landscape is restored and opportunities are taken for improved connectivity through green space for people and wildlife.

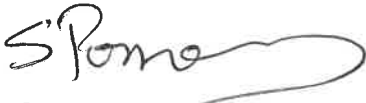
Taking this bold action can:

- Demonstrate to residents that the council genuinely and actively values the natural environment and community facilities in its area.
- Set a national example of how disposal of land that is supposed to be held by a Local Authority for community benefit can lead to tangible local and regional benefit.
- Help the council to achieve its corporate plan including the key priority: "Improving our environment".

We urge the Council to be part of the solution to realise the potential of the Colne Valley Regional Park and the Green Belt for people and wildlife.

I have copied this letter into your fellow cabinet members for Planning and for Environment as the actions that Bucks residents need are also connected to the remit of these portfolios.

Yours sincerely,



Stewart Pomeroy

Colne Valley Managing Agent

CC

Cllr Thomas Broom Cabinet member for climate change and the environment

Cllr Peter Strachan Cabinet member for planning and regeneration

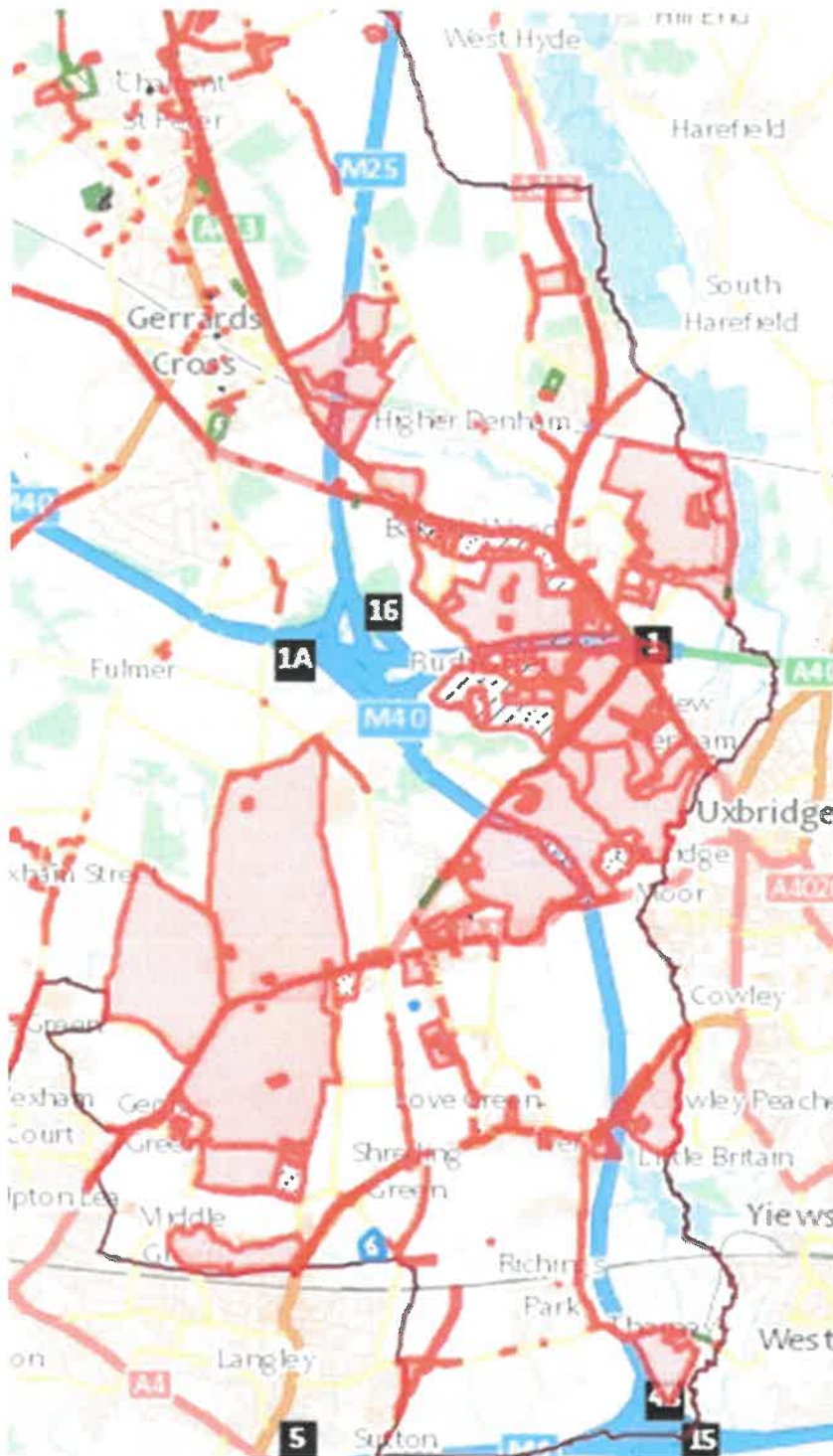
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APPENDIX Council-owned land in the Colne Valley Regional Park.

There is nowhere else in the county with anywhere near this high amount of council-owned land. Therefore, there is nowhere else where the Council has as much opportunity to deliver public benefit for people, biodiversity, food production etc



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