

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick,
Communities Secretary

Dear Mr Jenrick,

I am writing to **object** to the Called-in application St Helens local plan 2020-2035, which St Helens Council is minded to approve.

I am concerned about the potential harm that the above-mentioned application will have on the local area and the detrimental effects on the health and wellbeing of the people of Bold ward and the wider area.

Through generous funding from the parish council in 2019 I was able to help with the set up of the 'Dream Run' that uses part of the Bold Forest Park, an area of the ward previously unused for organised running events. The interest shown in this new event, with both children and adults of all ages taking part was fantastic to see. People have travelled from all over the north west to take part in this new organised event. There is a lack of suitable, safe sites to run these events in St Helens so when opportunities like this arise, they must be taken, especially with the current explosion of new runners from all walks of life. The number of runners increases with each event we organise.

The health and wellbeing of people of all ages is now more important than ever. Running and exercise in general is obviously a great way of improving both physical and mental health. As a group we would welcome new areas or courses to expand our events and continue to help more people to become fitter and healthier as well increasing social interaction and meeting new friends. Through following the parish councils work I have been made aware of the Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan and the proposals for new uses for the land contained within the forest park.

I believe that this land would be best used to provide multi-use or even dedicated trails for many groups to enjoy. With the increasing numbers attending each of our events we ideally need alternative routes on which to organise extra events. By using the proposed bridleways, wooded areas for cross country runs, cycle paths or public footpaths contained within the Bold Forest Plan we could identify new routes to satisfy the requirements of people of all ages and abilities. I have no doubt that the uptake on any proposed new events would be high due to my experience of the dream run. At the risk of sounding cheesy, if you build it, they will come.

The BFPAAP also contains plans for new businesses to grow within the forest park area. I believe that a running equipment shop sited within the forest park near to any new running routes would have a great chance of success. As I have mentioned previously, the numbers of people taking up running has increased massively over the past few years and this is something that the BFPAAP can take advantage of and lead to its overall success.

I would like to thank you for considering my statement and hope you agree that the positives from the implementation of the BFPAAP far outweigh the negative impact of the proposed developments of 4HA, 5HA, 1EA & 1ES and are minded to refuse this application.

Colin Briody

Let's run for fun running group.