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Open Letter for the attention of Chair of the Sheffield South East LAC, and decision makers at Sheffield City Council.

Date: 4th October 2024

At the Sheffield South East LAC meeting dated 12th September 2024, we received several questions regarding our Environment.

Question 1. What do you like/dislike about your environment?

My answer: I like the Owlthorpe Heritage and Nature Trail. I would like to thank you all for the positive feedback we have received regarding [our on-line Visitor's Guide to Friends of Ecological Owlthorpe](#) https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1lwtfjfkz-AlkYqibuM-mQgx1Qk_bDz4&ll=53.33704398604317%2C-1.3793755729763801&z=15 Published Recently **6,611** views to date. Also thank you to the **1,721** for signing our petition to save Ecological Owlthorpe <https://chng.it/6vXHqcGG4S> Please **SHARE** on social media with friends and family.

Roger Marsh was Chair of Owlthorpe Community Forum and Owlthorpe Local & Natural History Group. Roger created our oasis with funds from various posts of money from SCC including Section 106 monies **£67,455** retained by the builder of Woodland Heights housing development. The extent of the work carried out can be seen by zooming into the interpretation boards numbered 1 to 5 in [our on-line Visitor's Guide to Friends of Ecological Owlthorpe](#) Many parents use the interpretation board to educate their children about our Heritage and Environment. In order to protect the environmental improvements made in Owlthorpe **Roger Marsh** has started a petition to Sheffield City Council "[save Owlthorpe environmental projects](#)" **12,811** Signatures to date.

Question 2. What would you like to see more of?

My Answer: (Compliance) I would like to see that Avant Homes comply with **Secretary of State Appeal Decision date: 2 March 2021**. Please read this Appeal Decision; <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Appeal%20Decision%20-%203258555.pdf> **PLANNING OBLIGATIONS** numbers **82, 83, 84, 85, 86** A contribution of **£16,666.00** is secured towards improvements to the Donetsk Way Tram Stop, **87** A contribution of **£5,000.00** is secured towards the provision of a footpath, **88**. A contribution of **£14,000.00** is secured towards the provision of litter bins, dog waste bins, signs and fencing. **89**. A contribution of **£230,400.00** is secured towards off-site biodiversity, **90, 91** Details of the play space are required. **92, 93** A contribution of **£21,485.00** is secured towards the provision of street lighting along two footpaths, **94** A sustainable drainage system adoption fee of **£6,500.00** is secured towards the costs associated with adoption of the attenuation works. A further maintenance contribution of **£10,000.00** is also secured in relation to maintenance of the attenuation works. **95** A contribution of **£22,935.91** is secured towards the provision of tree planting on land adjoining the site. These funds will help improve the environment in Owlthorpe.

Question 3. Would you like to get involved in, or start up an environmental group?

My Answer: Please read <https://www.ecological-owlthorpe.org/Editorial.htm> Michael Meredith describes the thought process behind the 'Ecological Owlthorpe' project, which starts from the position only by cooperating with

nature that we can safely live with nature. At the time of presenting this proposal to the Planning inspector at the enquiry the Government were offering **£4 Billion** in support for upstream nature-based solutions to stop downstream flooding. Unfortunately, representatives from Sheffield City Council were determined to put profit before the wishes, health, and wellbeing of residents of Owlthorpe.

Question 4. Have you any thoughts or ideas about small environmental projects for the South East Area?

My Answer: I support all the projects on the Ochre Dyke corridor from the header water in Birley Woods down to the river rother.

As described in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PZ8vckPVL4> by Dr Patrick Harrison: Introducing the Ochre Dyke Wildlife Corridor in South East Sheffield. Historically SCC have been supportive in funding environmental projects on the Ochre Dyke Corridor for instance; Beighton ponds, Water Thorpe Park, Westfield Plantation and Owlthorpe Heritage & Nature Trail.

My thoughts or ideas about small environmental projects for the South East Area? To help with the experience of the Ochre Dyke Corridor we need a pedestrian underpass or traffic cramming (pelican crossing) on Moss Way to join up Water Thorpe Park to Westfield Plantation. This will help disabled and children visiting the Ochre Dyke corridor. Funding should be supplied to Owlthorpe Fields Conservation Group to make improvements in Owlthorpe Fields. Also, support should be given for the foot paths from the header waters of the Ochre Dyke down past Birley Moor Garden Centre.

At the Sheffield South East LAC meeting dated 12th September 2024, I complained about the lack of funding for environmental projects in Sheffield South East. The committee has received lots of good ideas but lacks the funding to deliver for their constituents.

I say to decision makers in Sheffield City Council: give Sheffield South East Local Area Committee the funding to deliver on their environmental projects.

Thank You

Michael Meredith.

If you have any thoughts about environmental projects contact Sheffield South East LAC.