

Entry Hill Golf Course. A Green Future

Thank you Dine for allowing me the opportunity to speak this afternoon.

My name is Katina Beckett and I am the Chair of the Entry Hill Community Association.

We are the Residents Association closest to Entry Hill Golf Course.

I would like to start by expelling two myths! -

1 That the community on Entry Hill are not open to change.

2 That the residents on Entry Hill would welcome any proposal as long as traffic is diverted to Wellsway. Entry Hill Golf Course is a lovely green lung and a Conservation area on the doorstep of residential housing. It is already home to wonderful wildlife.

The site needs a sustainable proposal that maintains and enhances the ecology of the golf course.

The council shouldn't have to subsidise golf or any other activity at this site.

The recent consultation and survey saw the future of our golf course fall into the hands of individuals who, not only, did not reside in our area, but were actively lobbied across the UK to respond to the survey - we believe this altered the results in favour of a bike park.

The mountain bike and sculpture park may have their appeal, but not at this site!

They are both tourist attractions. They require a substantial increase in outside visitors to make them viable.

In fact, the sculpture park has made provisions for coaches to arrive to the site via Entry Hill - feedback from BANES Traffic and Highways

confirms that this is not safe or practical.

Both proposals will need considerable money and excavation works in order to change, what doesn't need changing.

Our wildlife - Gone!

We will lose the current balance of grassland and woodland biodiversity and indeed the landscape.

The golf course also lies on contaminated land, it contains domestic, commercial and industrial waste.

There is no doubt, that any upheaval has a very high risk of releasing toxic substances.

We have been active in communicating with one of the golf proposers:

He is local, has knowledge of grass species and ecology, he supports incorporating Scholars Way Cycling Path onto the site.

He would also include:

An outdoor education centre,

ecological trails

and, a new vibrant community cafe

with golf as the leisure activity - promoted to a wider BANES demographic.

He can step onto this site with very minimal disruption and costs, with a plan that ties in with the existing environment, and begin the recovery process.

We request please, that the Cabinet include the Golf Plus option as one of the proposals that goes through the tendering process.

Thank you.