

Summary of Objections

The Council is the freehold owner of three allotment sites at Heyes Lane, Chorley Hall Lane and Beech Close. On 5th September 2011 Cabinet approved the proposal to transfer the functions of allotments under long lease to Alderley Edge Parish Council.

The advertising of the Council's intention to dispose of the three allotment sites resulted in a number of objections being received. The majority were received before the closing date for comments. These objections have been acknowledged by the Council and the objectors informed that their objections will be considered.

A summary of the main grounds for objection are as follows:-

1. The Alderley Edge Parish Council (AEPC) has not shown any interest in the allotments and does not intend to promote allotment use. AEPC has not made public its plans for the management and funding of the allotments and does not have the skills to manage the allotments nor do they have the administrative base. AEPC does not follow a proper democratic process in that they have not minuted meetings in which the allotments have been discussed and not allowed questions or public discussion at meetings. The grant of a lease should be delayed until AEPC holds a public consultation.
2. AEPC wants to use the allotment sites for development purposes. It has been quoted in the local press as having taken advice from a QC and intends to relocate the existing Heyes Lane allotments to Lydiat Lane (land owned by Alderley Edge School for Girls) to enable redevelopment of the by the construction of a car park for the new medical centre next door and the possible construction of housing and a motor repair garage on the remainder of the site. There are concerns that the other two sites will be used for housing.
3. Alderley Edge Allotments and Gardens Society (AEAGS) have responded saying that they currently lease the sites and to transfer them to the Parish Council would be to do so knowing that it is against the wishes of a large proportion of people who live in Alderley Edge and that any lease should contain covenants to prevent changes of use on all of the sites, allow plot holders from thorough out Cheshire East, maintain an open allocation policy, allow for dispute resolution between the AEPC and AEAGS.
4. The allotment tenants have not been kept informed or consulted by Cheshire East Council who do not know the terms on which AEPC will hold the land
5. The site should be transferred to an alternative such as a community interest group and other interested parties should be given an opportunity to tender for the lease
6. Heyes Lane site is subject to a covenant which prevents development.

7. A lack of regard for plotholders attachment to the site and the time and effort to cultivate a new site, transfer of plants and buildings, car parking and other facilities
8. The impact on the village/loss of green space there is a change of use (also drainage issues and increase in traffic pollution/congestion if use changes)
9. Re-development of new site to allotment use will result in loss of open space for other recreational uses
10. Heyes Lane site has an open water course which supports wildlife and should be protected
11. Allotments are green spaces which should remain in the hands of Cheshire East

Objector	Heyes Lane	Chorley Hall Lane	Beech Close
1	✓	✓	✓
2	✓		
3	✓		
4	✓	✓	✓
5	✓		
6	✓		
7	✓	✓	✓
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12			✓
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71	✓	✓	✓
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116	✓		
117	✓		
118	✓	✓	✓
119	✓	✓	✓
120	✓	✓	✓
Late Receipts			
121	✓	✓	✓
122	✓	✓	✓
123		✓	
124	✓		

125	✓	✓	✓
126	✓	✓	✓
127	✓	✓	✓
128	✓	✓	✓
129	✓	✓	✓