

Appendix 3 – Correspondence with Manchester City Council Regarding Exclusion from Local Green Space Designations and Petition Details

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Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Local Green Space Designation - Ryebank Fields, formerly Ryebank Playing Fields

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

6 July 2026 at 17:05

To: Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>

Cc: julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.Chantal.Kerr-Sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>, Ryebank Fields <ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Manchester Local Green Space Assessment (June 2026) – Ryebank Road (commonly known as Ryebank Fields, formerly Ryebank Playing Fields)

We are writing to raise concerns regarding the reasoning and methodology used in the Manchester Local Green Space Assessment (June 2026) in relation to Ryebank Road, commonly known within the local community as Ryebank Fields and historically as Ryebank Playing Fields.

The assessment concludes that Ryebank Road should not be taken forward for Stage 3 Local Green Space assessment because the site is identified for residential development through the Ryebank Road Development Framework 2019 and within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2025.

We are concerned that the assessment places substantial reliance on the Ryebank Road Development Framework 2019 without adequately addressing the current statutory planning context.

Since the adoption of Places for Everyone in March 2024, the planning framework for Greater Manchester has changed significantly. Places for Everyone now forms part of the statutory development plan and carries considerably greater weight than a non-statutory development framework prepared in 2019.

The assessment repeatedly refers to the Ryebank Road Development Framework as justification for excluding the site from further Local Green Space consideration. However, it does not appear to explain the extent to which the adopted Places for Everyone plan supports development of the site, nor does it explain why reliance on a pre-Places for Everyone framework remains appropriate in a 2026 assessment.

We maintain that the report's reliance on the Ryebank Road Development Framework 2019 is insufficiently justified and that the assessment should instead have been grounded primarily in the current statutory development plan framework. In particular, the report should have clearly distinguished between:

- The legal weight of the adopted Places for Everyone development plan;
- The status of the Ryebank Road Development Framework 2019 as non-statutory planning guidance;
- The status of the SHLAA as an evidence base document rather than development plan policy; and
- The extent to which Local Green Space designation would genuinely conflict with current adopted planning policy.

The omission of this analysis risks giving disproportionate weight to older and non-statutory documents and creates the impression that they remain the primary policy basis for development when the statutory planning position has since evolved.

We also note that inclusion within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment identifies potential housing capacity rather than constituting a formal allocation, consent or planning permission. The SHLAA is an evidence-gathering exercise intended to identify possible development opportunities and does not, in itself, determine that development should take place. While inclusion in the SHLAA may indicate that a site has been assessed as potentially suitable, available or achievable for housing development, it does not confer development plan status and should not be treated as equivalent to an allocation within an adopted development plan. We therefore consider that reliance on the SHLAA as a reason for excluding the site from further Local Green Space consideration requires fuller justification and explanation than is provided in the assessment.

We would also welcome clarification as to whether Ryebank Road was assessed against the substantive Local Green Space criteria set out in national planning policy before being excluded from Stage 3 consideration. The assessment appears to place significant weight on the site's identification for potential housing development, but it is unclear whether a full evaluation was undertaken of the site's local significance, recreational value, ecological interest, tranquillity, community importance and relationship to the surrounding area. We would be grateful if the Council could explain how its approach accords with the Local Green Space provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework and whether the site was assessed against those criteria independently of any assumptions regarding future development potential.

Given that the site is widely known locally as Ryebank Fields and has historically been referred to as Ryebank Playing Fields, we would also welcome clarification as to the extent to which its longstanding community identity, historical use, recreational value and local significance were considered as part of the assessment process.

We would further welcome clarification as to how evidence submitted by local residents, community groups and other stakeholders regarding the site's ecological, recreational, historical and community value was considered and weighed within the assessment process. Given the significant volume of community interest in Ryebank Fields over many years, it is important that the assessment demonstrates how such evidence informed the conclusions reached, particularly where the site was excluded from further consideration before a full Stage 3 assessment was undertaken.

Furthermore, the assessment appears to proceed on the basis that Local Green Space designation and future development are mutually exclusive outcomes. However, the report itself acknowledges elsewhere that it may be possible to identify and protect areas of permanent open space without preventing the delivery of identified housing needs. We are concerned that no equivalent consideration appears to have been given to whether all or part of the Ryebank Road site could satisfy the criteria for Local Green Space designation while allowing any future development proposals to be assessed on their own merits.

We therefore request that the Council reviews the assessment's treatment of Ryebank Road and provides clarification as to:

- The specific adopted development plan policies relied upon to justify the exclusion of Ryebank Road from Stage 3 assessment;
- The weight afforded to the Ryebank Road Development Framework 2019 in comparison with the adopted Places for Everyone development plan;
- The weight afforded to the SHLAA and the basis upon which it was considered relevant to the exclusion of the site from further Local Green Space assessment;
- The extent to which the conclusions would remain unchanged if assessed solely against the current statutory development plan framework;
- Whether Ryebank Road was assessed against the substantive Local Green Space criteria set out in national planning policy prior to its exclusion from Stage 3 assessment;
- How the site's longstanding community identity as Ryebank Fields and its historic use as Ryebank Playing Fields were taken into account in the assessment;
- How evidence submitted by residents, community organisations and other stakeholders

concerning the site's ecological, recreational, historical and community value was assessed and reflected in the conclusions reached; and

- Whether alternative approaches, including the identification of all or part of the site as Local Green Space, were considered and, if so, on what basis they were discounted.

Given the significant community interest in Ryebank Road and its recognised value as open space, we believe that transparency regarding the policy basis for the assessment is essential. The Local Green Space process should be robust, evidence-led and clearly rooted in the current planning framework. In our view, the assessment does not adequately demonstrate this in relation to Ryebank Road.

We would therefore be grateful if this representation could be formally recorded as part of the evidence base for the Local Green Space Assessment and taken into account in any future review of the assessment or decisions concerning the site. We would also be grateful for a written response addressing the matters raised in this representation and explaining the basis upon which the assessment's conclusions were reached.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Rhett Moran, Chair, Ryebank Fields Community Group





Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Green Space Designations in the Emerging Local Plan

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

15 July 2026 at 12:09

To: cllr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk

Cc: Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>, julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk, jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.Chantal.Kerr-Sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>

Dear Councillor Craig,

We write on behalf of Ryebank Fields Community Group to request that the Executive Committee reconsiders its decision to exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 list of sites proposed for Local Green Space (LGS) designation in Manchester's emerging Local Plan.

We believe there are substantial grounds for the Committee to revisit this decision, including concerns that Ryebank Fields may not have been fully assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Local Green Space criteria, and that relevant evidence submitted in support of designation may not have been properly considered.

The Executive Committee's decision appears to have been informed by an assessment prepared by The Environment Partnership (TEP). While we recognise the role of TEP in providing technical advice, responsibility for the decision to exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 list rests with the Executive Committee.

Our principal concern is that Ryebank Fields appears to have been excluded at an early stage of the assessment process without a detailed and comprehensive evaluation against the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.

The TEP assessment appears to have relied significantly on the site's inclusion within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and references within the Ryebank Road Development Framework (2019), rather than undertaking a full assessment of whether the site is demonstrably special to the local community and possesses particular significance because of its wildlife value, recreational value, tranquillity, beauty or other relevant characteristics.

We recognise that the Ryebank Road Development Framework and SHLAA may form part of the Council's evidence base. However, neither document carries the same planning status or policy weight as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) or the adopted Places for Everyone Plan, which provide the current policy framework for decisions relating to green infrastructure, biodiversity, access to nature and Local Green Space.

The purpose of a Local Green Space assessment is to determine whether a site meets the specific criteria set out in the NPPF, including whether it is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular significance because of its environmental, recreational, landscape or other local value.

We are therefore concerned that the TEP assessment appears to have given significant weight to documents that do not establish Local Green Space policy requirements, while the NPPF Local Green Space criteria and the environmental objectives of Places for Everyone do not appear to have formed the primary basis of the assessment.

We respectfully seek clarification as to why the Ryebank Road Development Framework (2019) and SHLAA appear to have been given such influence in determining the suitability of Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation, particularly when these documents do not provide the policy test for LGS designation.

This raises an important question:

How was it concluded that Ryebank Fields should be excluded from the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space designations when the NPPF criteria relating to wildlife value, recreational value, tranquillity, beauty and local significance do not appear to have been fully assessed?

We are also concerned that Local Green Space submissions made by Friends of Ryebank Fields in 2020 and 2024, which contained extensive evidence regarding the site's ecological, recreational, landscape and community value, do not appear to have been properly taken into account during the assessment process.

We would welcome clarification as to why this evidence was not used when determining whether Ryebank Fields met the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space designation, and how the Executive Committee satisfied itself that all relevant evidence had been considered before approving the exclusion of the site from the Stage 3 list.

If this evidence was not considered relevant, we respectfully request an explanation as to why, given that it was specifically prepared to address the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.

This is particularly significant given that:

- Ryebank Fields is an established woodland and meadow supporting significant biodiversity;
- Manchester City Council's own evidence base identifies the site as greenfield land;
- The site provides important recreational, environmental and wellbeing benefits to the local community;
- The Places for Everyone Plan promotes the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, biodiversity and access to nature;
- The site has been the subject of sustained community efforts over a number of years to secure Local Green Space designation.

The Local Plan will guide planning decisions for many years to come. It is therefore essential that decisions relating to Local Green Space designations are transparent, robust and based on a full and proper consideration of all relevant evidence.

We are concerned that the exclusion of Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 list risks undermining confidence in the evidence base supporting the emerging Local Plan, particularly if the assessment process did not fully apply the NPPF Local Green Space criteria or properly consider all available evidence.

We therefore respectfully request that the Executive Committee reconsiders its decision and undertakes a further assessment of Ryebank Fields against the NPPF Local Green Space criteria, taking into account all relevant evidence submitted in support of designation.

In particular, we request clarification of:

1. How Ryebank Fields was assessed against each of the NPPF Local Green Space criteria before being excluded from the Stage 3 list of proposed designations;
2. Whether the Local Green Space evidence submitted by Friends of Ryebank Fields in 2020 and 2024 was considered by officers and the Executive Committee, and if not, why this evidence was excluded from consideration;
3. Why the Ryebank Road Development Framework (2019) and SHLAA appear to have been given significant weight in the TEP assessment when they do not carry the same policy status as the NPPF or Places for Everyone;
4. Why the assessment does not appear to have been primarily based on the NPPF Local Green Space criteria and the environmental objectives of Places for Everyone;
5. How the Executive Committee satisfied itself that the TEP assessment and supporting evidence provided a robust and comprehensive basis for excluding Ryebank Fields from the proposed Local Green Space designations.

Given the importance of ensuring that the Local Plan is founded upon a sound and properly considered evidence base, we believe the issues identified above provide compelling grounds for the Executive Committee to revisit its decision before the Local Plan progresses further.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Rhetta Moran,

Chair, Ryebank Fields Community Group





Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Green Space Designations in the Emerging Local Plan

Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

16 July 2026 at 10:32

To: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Cc: Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>, "jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk"

<jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cldr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>, Bev Craig <cldr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk>

Dear Dr Moran

thank you for your email which I have been asked to respond to.

For clarity The Draft Local Plan has been approved for consultation and has reached its final stage in the formal process before submission to the Secretary of State. Any comments, including those set out in your email, will need to be made in response to the consultation once this has started as clearly set out in the report to the Executive and the draft minutes which have now been published. You will be notified of the consultation having made a representation at the previous Regulation 18 Stage.

Kind regards

Julie Roscoe

Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing,
Growth and Development

I♥MCR

Tel 0161 234 4552

internal 800 34552

Fax 0161 234 4508

E-mail: julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.ukInterim Business Support@ Elaine Bardsley - elaine.bardsley@manchester.gov.uk

Postal address: Manchester City Council, P.O.Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester,M60 2LA

Location address: Town Hall Extension, Level 6.

From: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>**Sent:** 15 July 2026 12:09**To:** Bev Craig <cldr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk>**Cc:** Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>; Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>; jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk <jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>; Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cldr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>; Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>**Subject:** Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Green Space Designations in the Emerging Local Plan

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02/08/2026, 12:25

Gmail - Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Gree...

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Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Green Space Designations in the Emerging Local Plan

Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>

17 July 2026 at 15:25

To: Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

Cc: "jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk" <jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>, Bev Craig <cllr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>, Ryebank Fields <ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com>, Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>, Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Hello Julie,

Further to the below, I am also finding it difficult to find the reasoning behind the exclusion of Ryebank amongst others site such as Bob's Hill and Lower Medlock.

The LGSA states that they were identified as "likely not enduring beyond the end of the plan period" and the report to the Executive (8th July) say they were not progressed because of "the expectation that the sites are **intended** to be for development"

That is not the national test. The NPPF ask whether a space is capable of enduring beyond the end of a plan period. The only thing preventing established green spaces from enduring beyond the plan period would be the council granting planning permission. For Ryebank in particular this has not yet been decided yet and therefore, nothing can be classified as intended.

The expectation here has treated sites as a done deal and as such they were not assessed for their beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or wildlife.

And I have noted that all three sites are listed in frameworks, one at draft stage, but I believe those frameworks hold very little material planning weight. In regard to Ryebank, the Ryebank development framework was written in 2017 by MMU itself unless a council owned one exists, so nothing substantial there above a proposal.

The development plans we have to adhere, a question I asked and had confirmed in the Planning Training, are that sites are to be assessed against the Core Strategy, Places for Everyone and the NPPF in lieu of any Local Plan (in reg 19 consultation phase). Not frameworks. I specifically talk about Ryebank because it is in my ward and Ryebank does no feature in any of those documents.

Additionally, any reference to the SHLAA is unfounded it's another non-statutory framework which has limited weight according to the LGSA. And even more confusing, no one in the council can seem to explain the reasoning behind exclusion based on inclusion in the SHLAA, a question I put to Robert Irvine, Group Leader Physical Infrastructure, Legal Services, as below:

Question: Are there any internal officer reports, briefing notes, or committee papers in which the decision to exclude SHLAA sites from the OSA baseline was discussed, recommended, or approved

Answer: Based on the enquiries I have undertaken, I understand that no such internal documents are held in relation to the exclusion of SHLAA sites from the OSA baseline.

So the whole reasoning is circular and the implications are much wider than the three-sites listed or if any other city follows our lead. The **prospect** of development is used to refuse LGS or inclusion in OSA now, and the lack of protection will then help to justify the development later.

If there is a fuller reasoning somewhere, please point me to it. As mentioned below, it is pertinent to be transparent especially **ahead of consulting with the public**. Otherwise, it could be seen to be misleading and certainly, at the moment, it is very confusing.

Thanks,

Chantal

Councillor Chantal Kerr-Sheppard
Green Party Member for Chorlton
Manchester City Council

From: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Sent: 17 July 2026 09:43

To: Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

Cc: jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk <jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>; Bev Craig <cllr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk>; Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>; Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>; Ryebank Fields <ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com>; Planning Strategy <planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Request for Reconsideration of the Decision to Exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 List of Proposed Local Green Space Designations in the Emerging Local Plan

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Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

22 July 2026 at 11:49

To: informationcompliance@manchester.gov.uk

Cc: cllr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk, Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>, jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.Chantal.Kerr-Sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>, Ryebank Fields <ryebankfieldsfriends@gmail.com>

Dear Information Compliance Team,

I am writing on behalf of Ryebank Fields Community Group to request information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

This request relates to Manchester City Council's assessment of Ryebank Fields during the preparation of the Draft Manchester Local Plan and the decision not to include Ryebank Fields within the Stage 3 list of sites proposed for Local Green Space designation.

Ryebank Fields Community Group has previously sought clarification from Manchester City Council on two occasions regarding the decision to exclude Ryebank Fields from the Stage 3 list. Whilst the Council has responded by referring us to the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation process, it has not provided a substantive response addressing the specific questions raised concerning the reasons for the decision, the assessment undertaken, or the evidence relied upon.

Accordingly, we are submitting this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 in order to obtain the information held by the Council relating to the assessment of Ryebank Fields and the decision not to progress the site for Local Green Space designation. For the avoidance of doubt, this request should be interpreted broadly in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the definition of environmental information contained within Regulation 2(1).

We request copies of the following information held by Manchester City Council:

1. All assessments, appraisals, scoring sheets, matrices, evaluation forms, reports, briefing notes, or other documents relating to the consideration of Ryebank Fields as a proposed Local Green Space.
2. Any Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3 Local Green Space assessment documents relating to Ryebank Fields.
3. Any records, reports, recommendations, assessments, officer notes, or correspondence identifying, discussing, or explaining the reasons why Ryebank Fields was excluded from the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
4. Any documents, reports, or assessments demonstrating how Ryebank Fields was assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework criteria for Local Green Space designation.
5. Any documents recording consideration of the site's environmental, ecological, recreational, landscape, heritage, biodiversity, or community value as part of the Local Green Space assessment process.
6. Any internal correspondence, emails, meeting notes, or briefing papers between Council officers relating to the assessment of Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation and/or its exclusion from the Stage 3 list.
7. Any reports, recommendations, or advice provided to elected members concerning the suitability of Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation.

8. Any documents identifying, describing, or evidencing the factual, policy, planning, technical, or evidential basis relied upon in determining that Ryebank Fields should not be included within the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
9. Any decision records, delegated officer decisions, approvals, sign-off sheets, recommendations, or records of meetings at which the decision was taken not to include Ryebank Fields within the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
10. Any records indicating whether planning application 142223/FO/2025, or the prospect of future development of Ryebank Fields, was considered during the Local Green Space assessment process and, if so, the nature of that consideration.
11. Any records identifying the officers, consultants, or external organisations involved in assessing Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation.
12. Details of any consultancy reports, technical assessments, evidence reviews, or specialist advice commissioned, relied upon, or considered by the Council in relation to Ryebank Fields' suitability for Local Green Space designation, together with copies of those documents where held.
13. Any comparative assessment tables, scoring matrices, ranking exercises, moderation records, or evaluation summaries showing how Ryebank Fields was assessed relative to other proposed Local Green Space sites considered during the Local Plan process.

For the avoidance of doubt, where information is held electronically, we request that it be provided in electronic format.

If any part of this request is considered unclear, we would be grateful if the Council could contact us to provide advice and assistance in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If any information is withheld, please identify the relevant exception relied upon, explain why that exception applies, and provide details of any public interest test undertaken.

In the event that the Council considers this request to be particularly broad or complex, or anticipates relying upon Regulation 7 to extend the time for responding, we would request that priority be given to the disclosure of information directly relating to the assessment of Ryebank Fields and the reasons for its exclusion from the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites. In particular, we would ask that any assessment reports, scoring matrices, officer recommendations, decision records, sign-off documents, and documents identifying the evidence relied upon be provided at the earliest opportunity to assist the public in making informed representations during the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation period.

Given the significance of Ryebank Fields to the local community, the ongoing planning proposals affecting the area, and the Council's decision not to include the site within the proposed Local Green Space designations in the emerging Local Plan, we consider disclosure of the requested information to be firmly in the public interest. The information is necessary to enable the community to understand the evidential basis for the Council's decision and to make informed representations during the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation on the Draft Local Plan.

The requested information is particularly important because the Council has approved the Draft Local Plan for consultation whilst simultaneously considering planning application 142223/FO/2025 affecting the same land, making transparency regarding the Local Green Space assessment process especially important.

We look forward to receiving your response within the statutory time period.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Rhetta Moran

Chair
Ryebank Fields Community Group





Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Ryebank Fields – Local Green Space Status and Planning Committee Reports

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

13 August 2026 at 11:38

To: Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

Cc: Tom.Stannard@manchester.gov.uk, Mark Dickens <Mark.Dickens@manchester.gov.uk>, Robert Griffin <robert.griffin@manchester.gov.uk>, jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.Chantal.Kerr-Sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Tina Kirwin-McGinley <cllr.tina.kirwin-mcginley@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>

Dear Ms Roscoe,

Thank you for your email confirming that the Council proposes to report the two planning applications relating to Ryebank Fields, Refs. 143413/FO/2025 and 142223/FO/2025, to the Planning Committee on 24 September 2026.

We are writing principally to ask the Council to ensure that the current position concerning the proposed Local Green Space status of Ryebank Fields is formally recorded on the planning files and brought to the attention of the Planning Committee in the officers' reports for both applications.

As you will be aware, the Council has recently resolved not to include Ryebank Fields within the proposed Local Green Space designations in the emerging Manchester Local Plan. RFCG does not accept the basis for that exclusion and will be making a substantive representation during the forthcoming Regulation 19 consultation.

The Regulation 19 consultation is due to commence on 17 August 2026 and will remain ongoing when the applications are considered by the Planning Committee on 24 September 2026. The emerging Local Plan will therefore still be at an unresolved stage of the plan-making process when the Committee considers the applications, with representations yet to be considered through the subsequent examination process.

RFCG therefore asks that the planning files for both applications, Refs. 143413/FO/2025 and 142223/FO/2025, record that the proposed Local Green Space designation concerning Ryebank Fields remains subject to the ongoing Regulation 19 plan-making process and has not reached its final outcome at the time the applications are due to be determined.

We further ask that this position is expressly referred to in the officers' reports to the Planning Committee for both applications, so that Members are aware, when considering the applications, that the proposed Local Green Space designation for Ryebank Fields remains subject to the ongoing statutory plan-making process.

For the avoidance of doubt, RFCG is not suggesting that the emerging Local Plan or the Regulation 19 process automatically prevents the Planning Committee from determining either application. Our request is that the planning records and officers' reports accurately reflect the position at the date of determination: the Council's decision concerning the proposed Local Green Space designation of Ryebank Fields remains within an ongoing plan-making process, with the Regulation 19 consultation still underway and the subsequent examination yet to take place.

We would be grateful if you could confirm that this position will be placed on the planning files for both applications and expressly drawn to the attention of the Planning Committee in the officer's reports.

Kind regards,

Dr Rhetta Moran

Chair
Ryebank Fields Community Group





Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Ryebank Fields – Local Green Space Status and Planning Committee Reports

Mark Dickens <Mark.Dickens@manchester.gov.uk>

13 August 2026 at 15:05

To: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>, Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>
Cc: Tom Stannard <Tom.Stannard@manchester.gov.uk>, Robert Griffin <robert.griffin@manchester.gov.uk>, "jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk" <jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>, Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>, Tina Kirwin-McGinley <cllr.Tina.Kirwin-McGinley@manchester.gov.uk>, Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>

Thank you for your two emails of today. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Julie Roscoe.

I can confirm both emails have been received and that the comments in your emails have been noted.

Mark Dickens
Deputy Director Planning & Building Control
Growth and Development Directorate

Email: Mark.Dickens@manchester.gov.uk

Tel: 07946577946

Location address: Manchester City Council Town Hall Extension Lloyd Street Manchester M2 5DB

Postal Address: Manchester City Council P.O. Box 532 Town Hall Manchester M60 2LA



From: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 11:38

To: Julie Roscoe <julie.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk>

Cc: Tom Stannard <Tom.Stannard@manchester.gov.uk>; Mark Dickens <Mark.Dickens@manchester.gov.uk>; Robert Griffin <robert.griffin@manchester.gov.uk>; jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk <jeff.smith.mp@parliament.uk>; Chantal Kerr-Sheppard <cllr.chantal.kerr-sheppard@manchester.gov.uk>; Tina Kirwin-McGinley <cllr.Tina.Kirwin-McGinley@manchester.gov.uk>; Bob Phillips <bob@urbanimprint.co.uk>

Subject: Ryebank Fields – Local Green Space Status and Planning Committee Reports

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EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Local Green Space Petition – Ryebank Fields

Online Petition

Petition: *Save Ryebank Fields*

Platform: Change.org

Petition URL: <https://www.change.org/p/save-ryebank-fields>

Relevance to Local Green Space Designation

The petition calls for Ryebank Fields to be protected from development and specifically includes a request that Manchester City Council formally designate the site as Local Green Space.

The petition provides supplementary evidence of continuing community support for the protection of Ryebank Fields and is relevant to the consideration of whether the site is “demonstrably special to a local community” and has particular local significance.

The petition should be considered alongside the Council's own consultation evidence, the 2020 and 2024 Local Green Space proposals, and other evidence of the site's recreational, environmental, landscape and community value.

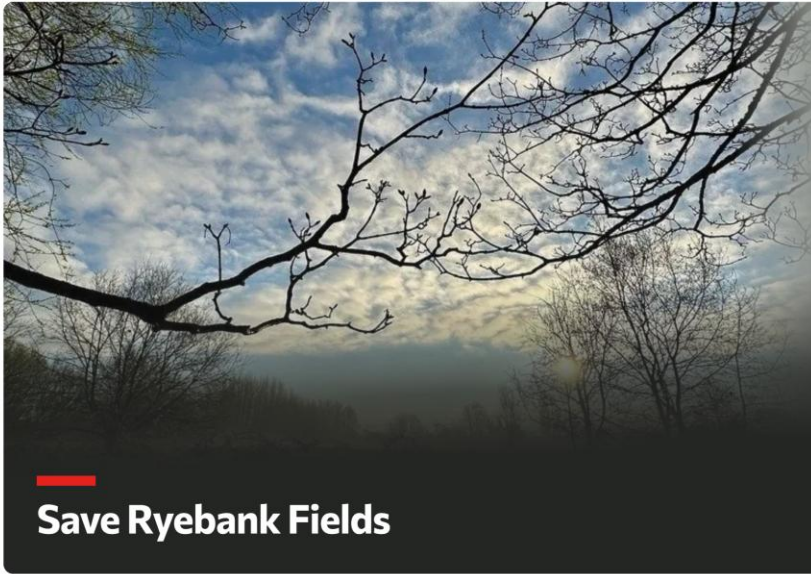
Evidential Status

The petition is presented as corroborative evidence of community support, rather than as evidence that by itself establishes that the site satisfies the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.

Date accessed: 18 August 2026

Verified signatures as of 18 August 2026: 4,218

Source: Change.org – *Save Ryebank Fields*



4,218

Verified signatures

 Support now

Take the next step!

Petition progress

Petition starter added an update, 11 months ago

Shares

738

Comments

8



Search





Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

[FOI/20811] Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment

foi@manchester.gov.uk <foi@manchester.gov.uk>

19 August 2026 at 16:23

Reply-To: foi@manchester.gov.uk

To: "ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com" <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Date: 19/08/2026

Dear Rhetta Moran

Re: Request for Information – Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment – Reference Number: FOI/20811

Thank you for your request for information, which was received by Manchester City Council on 22nd July 2026 and has been considered under the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("the EIR").

In your request you asked for the following information:-

"We request copies of the following information held by Manchester City Council:

1. All assessments, appraisals, scoring sheets, matrices, evaluation forms, reports, briefing notes, or other documents relating to the consideration of Ryebank Fields as a proposed Local Green Space.
2. Any Stage 1, Stage 2, or Stage 3 Local Green Space assessment documents relating to Ryebank Fields.
3. Any records, reports, recommendations, assessments, officer notes, or correspondence identifying, discussing, or explaining the reasons why Ryebank Fields was excluded from the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
4. Any documents, reports, or assessments demonstrating how Ryebank Fields was assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework criteria for Local Green Space designation.
5. Any documents recording consideration of the site's environmental, ecological, recreational, landscape, heritage, biodiversity, or community value as part of the Local Green Space assessment process.
6. Any internal correspondence, emails, meeting notes, or briefing papers between Council officers relating to the assessment of Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation and/or its exclusion from the Stage 3 list.
7. Any reports, recommendations, or advice provided to elected members concerning the suitability of Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation.
8. Any documents identifying, describing, or evidencing the factual, policy, planning, technical, or evidential basis relied upon in determining that Ryebank Fields should not be included within the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
9. Any decision records, delegated officer decisions, approvals, sign-off sheets, recommendations, or records of meetings at which the decision was taken not to include Ryebank Fields within the Stage 3 list of proposed Local Green Space sites.
10. Any records indicating whether planning application 142223/FO/2025, or the prospect of future development of Ryebank Fields, was considered during the Local Green Space assessment process and, if so, the nature of that consideration.
11. Any records identifying the officers, consultants, or external organisations involved in assessing Ryebank Fields for Local Green Space designation.
12. Details of any consultancy reports, technical assessments, evidence reviews, or specialist advice commissioned, relied upon, or considered by the Council in relation to Ryebank Fields' suitability for Local Green Space designation, together with copies of those documents where held.
13. Any comparative assessment tables, scoring matrices, ranking exercises, moderation records, or evaluation summaries showing how Ryebank Fields was assessed relative to other proposed Local Green Space sites considered during the Local Plan process."

Regarding questions 6, 7 and 9 the Council does not hold this information.

We can confirm that the Council does hold some of the information you have requested. Following careful consideration, I can inform you that we have decided to withhold the requested information.

Whilst the Council wishes to be as open and transparent as possible regarding environmental information, there are exceptions under the EIR which allow a public authority to withhold information in certain circumstances. All exceptions under the EIR are subject to the public interest test, and the Council must apply a presumption in favour of disclosure when considering that test.

The detailed reasons for withholding information, including the public interest test for each exception relied upon in relation to your request, are set out below:-

Incomplete information or drafts (Regulation 12(4)(d)) – A public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request relates to material that is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data.

The remaining information you have requested relates to the drafts of the finalised reports that have been provided as part of the Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation version which is in the public domain or is provided as part of the consultation version of the draft Local Plan Regulation 19 version.

The final reports / final version of the draft Local Plan and the relevant evidence base can all be accessed on the publicly accessible Council web site, the link is below:-

[Local plan review - previous consultation stages | Local Plan | Manchester City Council](#)

Public interest factors in favour of disclosure

- The general public interest in transparency

Public interest factors in favour of maintaining the exception

- The reports / assessments referred are in draft and their purpose was to contribute to the final version of the consultation version of the Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation document. It is this document that is out to consultation and it is this document that comments on the "soundness" of the draft Local Plan have to be about.

Taking the above factors into account, and having applied the presumption in favour of disclosure, I have determined that the public interest favours maintaining the exception.

Internal Review

Please note if you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review. If you have received this response by email the best way to submit a request for internal review is to respond directly to the email, leaving the email's subject line unchanged. Alternatively, you can contact the Council's Information Compliance Team at foi@manchester.gov.uk or Democratic Services Legal Team, PO Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 2LA. A copy of the Council's information rights complaints procedure can be downloaded from: http://www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/download/6095/access_to_information_complaints_and_appeal_procedure. If you do not have internet access and require a paper copy, please let me know.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review process, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

You should primarily contact the Information Commissioner on the following link:

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively the Information Commissioner can also be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

www.ico.org.uk

The Information Commissioner will generally expect that you have exhausted the Council's Information Complaints Procedure before she will consider a complaint.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you have received this response by email, please leave the email's subject line unchanged when responding to it.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Moore
Information, Delivery & Support Team Lead
Planning, Building Control & Licensing



Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

[FOI/20811] Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>
To: foi@manchester.gov.uk

19 August 2026 at 19:33

Dear Information Compliance Team,

Re: Request for Internal Review – Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – FOI/20811 – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment

I am writing on behalf of Ryebank Fields Community Group to request an internal review of the Council's response to our Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR") request FOI/20811, received by the Council on 22 July 2026.

We are not satisfied that the Council has adequately applied Regulation 12(4)(d), nor that the public interest test has been properly and sufficiently considered.

The Council's response states that the remaining information requested relates to "drafts of the finalised reports" which contributed to the Regulation 19 consultation version of the Local Plan. However, our request was substantially broader than a request for drafts of Local Plan reports.

In particular, we requested information concerning the **assessment and decision-making process relating specifically to Ryebank Fields**, including:

- Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 LGS assessments;
- scoring sheets, matrices and comparative assessments;
- records identifying the reasons for Ryebank Fields' exclusion from the Stage 3 list;
- evidence of assessment against the NPPF criteria for Local Green Space;
- records concerning the environmental, ecological, recreational, landscape, heritage, biodiversity and community value of the site;
- the factual, policy, planning, technical and evidential basis relied upon;
- records concerning whether planning application 142223/FO/2025 or the prospect of development was considered;
- details of officers, consultants and external organisations involved; and
- records of specialist advice, technical assessments and evidence reviews relied upon.

The Council has not identified which specific documents or categories of information are being withheld under Regulation 12(4)(d). Nor has it demonstrated that each item of information requested was, as at **22 July 2026**, genuinely material that was still in the course of completion, unfinished documentation or incomplete data.

The fact that information may have subsequently contributed to, or been incorporated into, a wider Local Plan report does not in itself establish that all underlying information requested falls within Regulation 12(4)(d).

We therefore ask the internal reviewer to consider, in particular, whether the Council has distinguished between:

1. genuinely unfinished drafts;
2. completed assessments or records which may have informed those drafts;
3. underlying data, scoring, evidence or evaluations;
4. records of the Council's decision-making or reasoning; and
5. information which can reasonably be disclosed with appropriate redactions even if some associated material remains unfinished.

The Council should also identify the specific documents to which Regulation 12(4)(d) is being applied, including their title, date and status, so that the application of the exception can be properly understood.

Public interest test

We also ask the internal reviewer to reconsider the public interest test.

The Council identifies the general public interest in transparency as the principal factor favouring disclosure, but the circumstances of this request give rise to substantially more specific public-interest considerations.

The information concerns the Council's assessment of an established green space for potential Local Green Space designation and the evidential basis for its exclusion from the Stage 3 list. The matter is directly relevant to the

ongoing Regulation 19 consultation and to public representations concerning the soundness of the emerging Local Plan.

There is therefore a strong public interest in understanding:

- what assessment was actually undertaken;
- what evidence was considered;
- whether the NPPF criteria were applied;
- how Ryebank Fields was assessed relative to other sites;
- what evidence or reasoning led to its exclusion from Stage 3; and
- whether the prospect of development, including planning application 142223/FO/2025, was taken into account.

These matters are particularly important where the information concerns the evidential basis for a public authority's environmental and planning decision.

The Council states that disclosure could prejudice the Regulation 19 process because the reports were drafts intended to contribute to the final consultation document. However, the Council has not explained specifically **what harm would result from disclosure of the particular information requested**, nor why that harm would outweigh the strong public interest in disclosure.

We therefore ask the internal reviewer to conduct a fresh and document-specific public interest assessment rather than relying on the general proposition that the material contributed to a report which was subsequently finalised.

Questions 6, 7 and 9

We note the Council's statement that it does not hold the information requested at questions 6, 7 and 9.

We would be grateful if the internal review could confirm that appropriate searches were undertaken for these categories and provide, where possible, a brief explanation of the searches undertaken and the systems, records or teams searched.

Questions 10–13

We particularly request reconsideration of questions 10–13.

These questions seek information concerning whether the development proposal was considered, who was involved in the assessment, what specialist advice was relied upon, and how Ryebank Fields was assessed relative to other proposed Local Green Space sites.

The Council has not demonstrated that such information necessarily constitutes unfinished drafts. If any of this information is held in completed or separable form, we ask that it be disclosed, subject only to any specific and properly justified exception applicable to that information.

Request

Accordingly, we ask the internal reviewer to:

1. reconsider the application of Regulation 12(4)(d);
2. identify the specific documents and information being withheld under that exception;
3. confirm the status and dates of those documents;
4. distinguish genuinely unfinished material from completed underlying information and records;
5. reconsider whether information can be disclosed with appropriate redactions;
6. reconsider questions 10–13 specifically;
7. provide a fuller and document-specific public interest assessment; and
8. disclose any information which does not properly fall within Regulation 12(4)(d) or any other applicable exception.

For the avoidance of doubt, we are not seeking disclosure of material merely because it is labelled a "draft". We are asking the Council to apply the EIR exceptions to the **actual information requested**, rather than treating all information relating to the LGS assessment as falling within Regulation 12(4)(d) simply because some wider Local Plan material was subsequently finalised.

Given that the information concerns the environmental and planning assessment of Ryebank Fields and is directly relevant to the current Regulation 19 process, we would ask that the internal review be undertaken as soon as practicable.

Please acknowledge receipt of this internal review request and retain the existing subject line and reference **FOI/20811**.

Yours sincerely,

19/08/2026, 19:53

Gmail - [FOI/20811] Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Request – Ryebank Fields Local Green Space Assessment

Rhetta Moran

Chair

Ryebank Fields Community Group

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