

'Where is their community spirit?': Housing company criticised for MP snub



Members of Enfield Road Watch

A developer has been accused of lacking “community spirit” after refusing a group permission to do a survey of green belt land, despite support from an MP.

Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North, had written a letter to Fairview New Homes asking for campaign group Enfield Road Watch to be granted access to the fields on Enfield Road to perform an ecological and bio-diversity survey.

The group want to do the survey ahead of possible development of the land, which is owned by Fairview and has been earmarked as a possible site for a new school.

However, in a one paragraph response to Ms Ryan’s letter, Richard Paterson, director of Fairview, rejected their appeal.

In the letter seen by the *Enfield Independent*, he wrote: “You will be pleased to hear that I am able to save Enfield Road Watch both the trouble and the costs of carrying out ecology and drainage surveys being obliged to submit a suite of surveys and reports, all carried out by professional consultants, some of which we have already completed.

“They will all of course be in the public domain were an application be made.”

In response, Ms Ryan accused him of being “disingenuous”.

She said: “Fairview gave me the brush off, they were very unhelpful.

“As it is the greenbelt, anyone has to make a very special case to develop there and Fairview have simply not done this. If they are confident in their argument, what are they worried about?”

“Fairview are an Enfield company, this is their home, but they are acting with a closed mind and without any sort of community spirit.”

Ian D’Souza, chairman of Enfield Road Watch, also accused Fairview of not acting in the best interests of the community.

He said: “I would like to thank Joan Ryan MP for her assistance in this matter. Whilst I was disappointed, I was not at all surprised that Fairview have taken this stance. Where is their community spirit? And what are they trying to hide?”

“I was amazed at the tone and content of the letter to Ms Ryan. This and previous communications fly in the face of Fairview’s own claims of ‘always seeking to engage with and support the communities where we build our new homes’.

“The fields are currently rich with various plants and an abundance of wildlife. Recent sightings reported by the community include red kites, thrushes, bats, and Egyptian geese and their young. This information should be recorded and the field's many species should be protected for future generations.”