

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

Statement from Liverpool Green Party:

'All Liverpool Green Party candidates in the local and General Elections are opposed to the sale and development of Sefton Park Meadows.

All Green Party candidates in the local and General Elections are opposed to development on parkland and established green spaces which are cherished by local people.'

Cllr Lawrence Brown, Greenbank Ward and agent for Martin Dobson, Riverside Parliamentary Candidate

Statement from Liverpool Liberal Democrats:

'In simple terms the answers to your questions are NO and NO! All Liberal Democrat candidates in Liverpool are campaigning against the sale of Sefton Park Meadows and other green spaces in our city.

This is leading issue in our local manifesto, it's on every piece of election literature we are putting out, and our leader Richard Kemp and a number of our candidates have had major roles in the various fights across Liverpool to protect our parks and green spaces.'

Andrew Makinson, Central Liberal Democrats Office Liverpool

Statement from Northwest Liberal Party:

'In general terms we have been robustly defending parks right across the city and our party submission called for greater effort to tackle 480 Hectares brownfield, instead need to tackle long term vacant houses including triggering council tax threshold to one month as an alternative approach.

If we are elected to Planning Committee we have to be careful making a pledge on a specific site as would debar us voting, as you should be aware.

Steve Radford, Northwest Liberals

Individual Candidate Comments:

GREENBANK WARD

1. Email from Simon Worthington, Trade Union and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) candidate

Thank you for getting in touch with me, over an issue that is so very pressing, not just for the residents of Greenbank, and its neighbouring ward St Michaels, but for every resident of this city. Indeed, this is an issue facing every green space in the country. I would like to state that I, and TUSC as whole, utterly oppose the destruction of Sefton Park Meadows under any circumstances and, in particular, for the proposed luxury housing development.

Green space is an extremely important part of this city and has a hugely positive impact on quality of life for its citizens. To allow it to go into private hands to be used for profit is a disgrace. There are thousands of empty homes in our city, which could easily be refurbished and used to help relieve the housing crisis for ordinary people. Instead we have the threatened destruction of a cherished public space in order to build houses which the majority of people will be unable to afford.

cont./

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

To add a personal note, as someone who has raised two children within sight of Sefton Park and used both the park and the Meadows on an almost daily basis, I am sickened at the prospect of this space going for good. This shows the council's priorities are profit not people.

I assume this is quite clear from the above, but the answer to both your questions is therefore a very emphatic no.

2. Facebook Post on SSPM site by David Morgan, Green Party Candidate

As the Green Party council candidate for Greenbank I'm perfectly happy to publicly go on the record in stating my opposition to the sale of the Meadows and to the sale of other publicly-owned parkland across the city.

I believe that every possible alternative avenue should be exhausted before we consider developing parkland, including:

- 1) Making best use of existing brownfield land to create new (medium or high density) zero-carbon housing.
- 2) Carry out a full review of land-banking in Liverpool and look at ways in which land that developers are sitting on can be brought back into public-ownership and use (as has just happened with the Festival Gardens site).
- 3) Identify any existing empty and under-used properties across the city that can be brought back into use.

The last thing that I'd say though is that these sell-offs are part of a much bigger nationwide picture. The coalition government has stripped power and control from local authorities and ridden roughshod over local communities right to object. We're doing our best to fight the individual battles on the ground, but if we really want to roll back the tide then I'd recommend that people look into the various parties manifesto proposals around planning and use that to help inform your choice.

3. Email from Jeanete Makinson, Liberal Democrat candidate

I am wholeheartedly opposed to the sale and development of Sefton Park Meadows and any other parks and public green space in Liverpool, as indeed are Liberal Democrat candidates across our city.

I believe it is the job of local councillors to protect and improve the neighbourhoods (and the city) they represent. Our parks are amongst our city's most prized assets, and should not be sacrificed for short term profit.

CENTRAL WARD

1. Email from Rachael Ward, Green Party candidate

I have written letters of support for the campaign to the Echo, and would like to help make all city residents aware of the complete lack of transparency regarding the negotiation of its sale, the lack of due process by the council in selecting the developer and the untruths told about the amount of revenue it would generate. We need parks and open green cont./

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

spaces as the population increases to improve the poor air quality in Liverpool, and it is unbelievable to choose to build luxury homes when so many people are in search of a home to buy or rent at an affordable rate.

CHILDWALL WARD

1. Completed survey letter from Josie Mullen, Green Party Candidate

I have been to 2 out of 3 demos and have featured the possible sale of parklands and greenspaces in general in all three of my leaflets. I am 100% against the sale of any park and greenspace.

NB I was motivated to stand as a Green candidate in the elections mainly due to the undemocratic mayoral administration and the indifference of all Labour councillors to the protection of Liverpool's parkland and open spaces.

CHURCH WARD

1. Email from Richard Kemp, Liberal Democrat candidate

We as a council have already given outline or detailed planning permission for about 20,000 new homes. In addition there is land available for at least 20,000 more new homes and we have more than 6,000 houses empty. Put together these add up to enough space for more than 40 years of population growth. However being opposed to the sales is not enough. We need to develop an exciting new strategy for our parks and green spaces. SOGS (Save Our Greenspaces Liverpool) now needs to be proactive and not reactive.

CROXTETH WARD

1. Email from Lewis Coyne, Green Party candidate

If a new Everton stadium is needed, it should be built on the vacant 50 acres of brownfield land at Stonebridge Cross in Croxteth, not on Walton Hall Park.

PICTON WARD

1. Email from Adam Heatherington, UKIP Candidate and their Parliamentary Candidate for Wavertree constituency

Sefton Meadows is an integral part of the park I, like many residents in this city visit the park regularly. It should not be sold by LCC for profit to a developer to build luxury homes. The council is asset stripping this great city. The green spaces are inclusive to all bringing health benefits, an ecosystem, and flood prevention.

All green spaces in this city need to be protected, covenants and tree preservation orders need to be adhered to, they are there for a reason to protect our green spaces and UKIP has created the following policies.

UKIP advocates building on brown fill as the Campaign to Protect Rural England estimate that 1.5 million homes can be developed on brownfield land, Civitas believe it to be as much as 2.5 million homes. Therefore we would establish the UK Brownfield Agency to compile and collate data for a National Brownfield Register, provide decontamination assessment grants, and low interest loans for decontamination and land remediation. cont./

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

We would issue Brownfield Bonds with the aim of raising £5bn to fuel our brownfield revitalisation programme. Paving the way for more affordable housing, more home ownership by investing in our country's most derelict and underused land, and not by turning landscapes into concrete jungles. We would eliminate stamp duty from all properties developed on Brownfield and remove VAT from all Brownfield conversion costs. We would start by incentivising back into the market the 700,000 homes shamefully lying empty in our country, when people need homes more than ever.

We also say it is right to relax planning regulations in strategic zones to make it easier to convert disused office and commercial spaces in Liverpool into homes.

Through grassroots planning referendums we will give the people of Liverpool, and their communities the power to shape the towns and cities they live in, rather than bureaucrats and big business.

The Local plan is a huge threat to our parks, playing fields and public areas. I have been an active "Save the green space" campaigner since a teenager after witnessing the sell off Childwall cricket fields, land left to the people of Childwall but sold for private gain.

I am also proud to be a member of resident association groups and have been actively campaigning to save Manweb playing fields and Sandown Park. I feel that the people of Liverpool need to come together and act as one against LCC and their proposals.

KIRKDALE WARD

1. Facebook post by Martyn Madeley, Green Party candidate

I think there is no reason for the council to sell our green spaces and parks for development when there is plenty of brownfield sites around the city that could be developed using medium to high density housing and more imaginative city planning. By doing this and discouraging the use of cars the council would be bringing in more council tax revenue than they will get from a small amount of large houses being built on our parks.

We need our parks and green spaces for more than just recreation, they provide a space for community events and the bio diversity, carbon capture and water drainage that they provide is invaluable and irreplaceable.

MOSSLEY HILL WARD

1. Email from Martin Henshaw, Green Party candidate

Our parks must not be built on. They must be preserved for future generations. We need to keep what we have.

2. Email from Patrick Hurley, Labour Party candidate

I'll reply as simply as possible, but this is a rather complex issue.

I've been public in opposing the plans that were submitted for the land people call the meadows ... My main concern with that site is to protect the mature trees, the feel of the area as you come under the railway bridge on Queens Drive, and the local atmosphere.

As for other areas, I'm 100% opposed to any building in any of the parks that I'm familiar with on a personal level. I must admit to not having been in every single one of the public parks in Liverpool, so understandably, I'd rather not comment on the ones I'm cont./

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

not familiar with. As for green spaces within the Mossley Hill ward - I'd welcome the building of an extension to the car park near Otterspool Prom, as local residents have complained for years about parking on Jericho Lane. I'd welcome the previously British Rail-owned land adjacent to railway sidings between Mersey Road and Otterspool Park being used for housing. And I'd welcome the development of land towards the end of Riversdale Drive. I've been public about opposing any other public green space in the ward being used for houses.

PRINCES PARK WARD

1. Facebook Post by Dee Coombes, Green Party candidate

I am totally opposed to the sale of Sefton Park Meadows and any other Green Spaces for housing development (or anything else). They belong to the people and should stay that way. Cities are more than just housing. They should be a human environment where we can play, exercise, see plants grow, observe birds and animals and allow our children to develop a healthy interest in and love of, the natural world. They are the lungs of the city and should NEVER be sold.

ST MICHAEL'S WARD

1. Email received from Anna Key, Green Party Candidate

Green spaces should be cherished and protected for public use and by no means should be sold off for luxury housing or dwellings of any other sort.

WARBRECK WARD

1. Email from Jean Hill, Green Party Candidate

(Re Qu 2) This is too broad a question, because 'green space' doesn't have an objectively-determinable definition.

The presumption should be against development, especially on established parkland. By far the most serious development currently proposed is that of a stadium for EFC, housing and retail on Walton Hall Park. This must be resisted and the fiction of presenting it as a 'Transformational Regenerative Opportunity for North Liverpool' must be exposed.

Other green spaces should be considered on a case by case basis, with a presumption against development unless there are special circumstances, such as that the space previously contained housing.

Jean later added by email:

The Green Party is in favour of high-density housing balanced by areas of green space large enough to be useful.

WAVERTREE WARD

1. Email from Steve McNally, Independent Candidate

As an ardent campaigner for our Green Spaces in Liverpool I believe it is more cost effective to build on Brownfields as we can build low cost rented houses rather than following the developers profit led housing. Presently there is no need to build on our Green Spaces as there is plenty of brownfield to build on. If I get into the council I will be

Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey Liverpool Local Elections 2015

Additional Comments @ April 29th

cont./

fighting to have new houses built by the council under new regulations on brownfield sites. I will also be finding the truth about WHY our Green Spaces are on the LCC for sale list. There is still time to stop the damage being done by our Mayor and Council and hopefully after 7th May I can be involved as an Independent Councillor for Wavertree Ward.

2. Email from Leo Evans, Liberal Democrat Candidate

Housing is a much needed entity in our country and city, but we do not solve this issue by building luxury homes on Green spaces. These are spaces that are here for the people of our city and for generations to come, once they are built upon, we will never get them back, and that is something which we cannot allow to happen.

WOOLTON WARD

1. Facebook Post on Woolton Woods site by Mal Kelly, Liberal Democrats candidate

Mal Kelly John,

Many thanks for your post.

In order to save people the cost of stamps i'm happy to state my views on this page.

I am completely 100% against Woolton Woods being sold for any development. I am also against Woolton Woods being developed for a new school when it is clear that a new school can be developed on its existing site.

More than this, I have been consistently active in the fight against the proposals for Woolton Woods and have chaired the Save Woolton Woods Campaign Group for near on 12 months, attending approximately 35 meetings of that group each Friday over that same period of time.

I have also helped with the organising of each of the events that have taken place to help save Woolton Woods.

I am equally against the sale of other parks across the City for development and campaigned against the sale of Sefton Park Meadows in the 80's when it was previously under threat.

I would like to think that I have a good track record of campaigning to save green open space.

cont./

**Save Sefton Park Meadows and Liverpool Greenspaces Survey
Liverpool Local Elections 2015**

Additional Comments @ April 29th

2. Letter from vivienne BECKETT, UKIP candidate

Local people should have the final say on major planning decisions in their area.