

Fairy Forest School Ltd carries out Educational Activities for families and children at Lumb Brook Valley through an agreed Licence Agreement with its owners the Woodland Trust.

This semi ancient wood is a diverse ecosystem. Near the stream notably is an array of Woodland flowers including English bluebells, celandine, wood anemone and marsh marigolds. I have also seen what I believe to be bank voles swimming in this stream within the confines of this wood as well as birds of prey and larger mammals. The brook – a vital part of this eco system – is fed by run-off and ground water from the surrounding fields which Warrington Borough Council are proposing to develop as housing as well as existing housing built in the late 70's early 80's.

Fairy Forest School objects to the plans at Appleton Thorn and surrounding area as part of Warrington Borough Council's Local Plan because it will adversely affect Lumb Brook Valley by:

- Drastically increasing usage of this public access wood leading to more litter, trampling, antisocial behaviour, etc.
- Increasing the flow and variation of the brook leading to more erosion, loss of habitat and downstream flash flooding.

We have seen firsthand the variation of flow of the brook during periods of rain with a difference in depth of approximately 1 foot. We believe the variation has increased since other houses were built circa 1980 from speaking to older residents. The new build I believe, will therefore have a massive impact.

The effects of flash flooding and subsequent erosion to Lumb Brook Valley can be mitigated for by:

- Modelling the effect of the development on flash flooding within the catchment area from the fields surrounding Appleton Thorn and along the length of the brook.
- Independently ecologically surveying the Lumb Brook Valley Woodland to determine what species are likely to be affected and the damage the development is likely to cause.
- Reducing or eliminating any building on Green Belt designated Land.
- Incorporating green areas within any development which act as buffers for rain water such as ponds, woodland and bogs.
- Ensuring any housing development incorporates water absorption or retention such as grey water systems and permeable driveways.
- Installing drainage systems that control the flow of water into Lumb Brook with overflows that bypass the valley altogether during periods of significant rainfall.
- Including systems that prevent pollution from road drainage from entering Lumb Brook Valley such as oil skimmers, natural drainage reed beds and monitoring points.

I would ask you to consider these points and take appropriate action before any development is undertaken.

Yours faithfully



Director Fairy Forest School