

From: **Chris Durrant**

Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2019 at 1:15 PM

Subject: Welwyn-Hatfield Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

To: <louise@poservices.co.uk>

Dear Louise,

I have reviewed the latest landscape assessment for Welwyn & Hatfield, in particular the part that is covered by my property on The Ridgeway (classified as part of Area 53 in the assessment).

Area 53 is a large classification and I note that the only specific mention to the area of fields adjoining my property is a statement 'some fields lacking in strong hedgerow boundaries, resulting in a moderate sensitivity to residential development.' I was surprised to see this classification and dispute its accuracy for the following reasons: -

- 1) The previous assessment undertaken by the same consultancy only a few month ago concluded that the area would represent High harm to the green belt. What has changed in the last 6 months to justify a lowering in classification?
- 2) The only rationale given in the report is the mention of 'some fields lacking in strong hedgerow boundaries' , This is incorrect for the majority of The Ridgeway. The area immediately behind the houses on the Ridgeway has strong hedgerows surrounding it.
- 3) In addition, I would point out that the field bounded by the hedgerows and our gardens have been planted with many hundreds of trees (approx. 5 years ago). I understand this was charitable planting, with many people giving time and money to complete the activity. This is now fast maturing woodland and for the report to

ignore it and imply that it is unimportant at a time when green / environmental issues have never been so important seems a major omission.

4) I cannot understand how the assessment can be so wrong and different from before, but note that the study method states that 'field study verification ...was undertaken from roads and public rights of way'. I doubt if any of what I have said would have been visible from the road, so I've attached a couple of photo's today from my garden which correctly reflect the actual situation, in particular the tree planting.

5) Finally, please note that the area bounded by the hedge rows also contains a pond, which apparently contains great crested newts and other wildlife. There is no mention of this in the report either.

regards
Chris Durrant