

# St Leonard's Neighbourhood Association

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The City Surveyor,  
Exeter City Council,  
Exeter  
EX1 1JJ  
2nd October 2018

## Re: Disposal of land at Bull Meadow Park

Dear City Surveyor,

I am writing with regard to the planned disposal of land in Bull Meadow Park to Exeter Homes Trust prior to the development of the Almshouses in Fairpark Road.

On behalf of the residents of St Leonards I would like to strongly protest at any sale of green, public open space however large or small.

In 1975 a protest group was formed to prevent the destruction of Bull Meadow Park by the routing of Western Way through it. The protest was successful and thankfully Bull Meadow was saved and has been, to this day, a wonderful community resource which has recently undergone extensive work to improve both the facilities for children and the general public. The planting of shrubs and wild flowers and the care given to making it a pleasant place to be has been very successful.

It benefits enormously from being isolated from vehicular traffic, the vast majority of its users, children and their parents, access it by walking. The loss of 130sq M may not sound much, but it is what that 130sq M is going to be used for which is at the root of the matter. It is to ease access and increase traffic to the proposed development of the Almshouses. Deliveries and collections will be made along Temple Road also using Dean St, Roberts Rd, and Radford Rd. Door to door deliveries are an increasing part of everyday life and particularly for the age group which is likely to live in the Almshouses. Other maintenance traffic will use those roads which are completely unsuitable for any increase in traffic, particularly in view of it being next to a children's playground.

Could I point out, from the Council's own Public Open Space Policy;

*"where practicable all children up to and including 12 years of age to live within 1000m of a play area equipped to meet the needs/interests of their age group and be able to reach it safely and conveniently on foot;"*

The proposed plans of the Almshouses should be re designed to allow access to the top of the site.

In summary we oppose any loss of public open space, however small and particularly when it's loss results in a more dangerous and less environmentally healthy option.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel P.V.FitzHugh