



Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Ryebank Fields and the protection of urban green spaces

Eckersley, Phil <Phil.Eckersley@trafford.gov.uk>
To: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>
Cc: "McNeillage, David" <david.mcneillage@conservatives.com>

14 July 2026 at 15:57

Dear Dr Moran and members of the Ryebank Fields Community Group,

Thank you for writing to me about Ryebank Fields and the wider protection of urban green spaces across Greater Manchester.

I firmly support the principle that long-established and valued urban green spaces should be protected wherever suitable brownfield alternatives are available.

Greater Manchester needs more homes, particularly affordable homes for young people and families. But those homes should be delivered through the regeneration of brownfield land, vacant sites and underused town-centre locations before valued green spaces are placed under unnecessary development pressure.

In relation to Ryebank Fields specifically, I support the local community's efforts to retain the site as woodland, meadow and open green space. I recognise that any planning application must be considered independently through the proper statutory process, and I would not seek to prejudge that decision. However, the strength and longevity of local feeling should be taken seriously, as should the environmental and community value of the site.

As Mayor, I would:

- Make brownfield-first development a clear strategic priority across Greater Manchester.
- Press for a transparent assessment of available brownfield land before development on valued green spaces is promoted.
- Work with councils, landowners and communities to unlock difficult brownfield sites for housing and regeneration.
- Ensure that the Greater Manchester spatial strategy properly recognises the importance of urban green spaces, biodiversity and access to nature.
- Support communities seeking greater protection for well-used and environmentally important local spaces.
- Publish clearer information about the land being considered for development, the alternatives assessed and the reasons behind strategic planning decisions.

Residents should not be presented with a false choice between building the homes we need and protecting the places we value. With proper leadership, brownfield regeneration can deliver new homes, revive town centres and protect green spaces at the same time.

My approach as Mayor would be pro-homes, pro-regeneration and pro-protecting Greater Manchester's green spaces.

Thank you again for giving candidates the opportunity to set out their position.

Regards,

Cllr. PHIL ECKERSLEY

Conservative Councillor for Bowdon Ward

Deputy Leader of the Trafford Conservative Group

📞 07974 044 755 📧 phil.eckersley@trafford.gov.uk 📘 @cldr.phileckersley



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From: Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Sent: 14 July 2026 14:33

To: cldr.sian.astley@manchester.gov.uk <cldr.sian.astley@manchester.gov.uk>; Coggins, Geraldine <Geraldine.Coggins@trafford.gov.uk>; cldr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk <cldr.bev.craig@manchester.gov.uk>; Eckersley, Phil <Phil.Eckersley@trafford.gov.uk>; cldr.richard.kilpatrick@manchester.gov.uk <cldr.richard.kilpatrick@manchester.gov.uk>

Subject: Ryebank Fields – Mayoral Candidate Letter

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Dear Candidate for GM Mayor,

Please find attached a copy of the letter that Ryebank Fields Community Group has sent to candidates in the forthcoming Greater Manchester Mayoral Election.

The letter seeks candidates' views on the protection of urban green spaces and the future of Ryebank Fields. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to read it and respond to the questions set out in the letter.

For transparency, we intend to publish all responses received on the Ryebank Fields Community Group website and social media channels. To allow time for publication before polling day, we would be grateful to receive your response by 23 July 2026.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Tom Butler
Secretary
Ryebank Fields Community Group



Candidates For GM Mayor.pdf

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