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Secret garden under threat

 By **Victoria Birch**
[Comment](#) | [Read Comments \(11\)](#)

A SECRET garden hidden just yards from High Wycombe's town centre has been earmarked for homes, despite angry protests from neighbours who say the land is a haven for wildlife.



The secret garden facing development

The 0.48 hectares of land, off Priory Avenue, was once home to Joan Perkins before her death ten years ago. The 87-year-old owned a number of businesses in the area including the old petrol station at Temple End and a furniture factory by her home.

But plans by developers Henry Homes have now been revealed. They involve building eight three-bedroom houses, five two-bedroom apartments and 23 parking spaces. There is also a land swap' agreement with nearby Hamilton School by taking a piece of their playground to build a road. In return the school gets an area of land from the site and money for new projects.

The bungalow at Fairacre has been left derelict, and residents say the house should be pulled down and the land turned into a nature reserve as it is home to badgers and a number of plant species.

Lorna Cassidy, 72, an artist who lives in nearby Hampden Road and makes etchings of the site, called it a secret garden which she remembers as being spectacular in its former glory.

However she said there were not many places left like it in Wycombe and called for the council to protect it from development.

The grandmother, and mum of three, said: "The garden is so magnificent now."

Another neighbour, who didn't want to be named, added: "There are about five or six badger setts. There are so many animals living there at the moment. There is a World War Two air raid shelter there. It's a piece of history.

"Next month it is the tenth anniversary of her death. She would be turning in her grave."

Neighbour

"Next month it is the tenth anniversary of her death. She would be turning in her grave."

He added: "It used to be a real middle class leafy avenue but it has been eroded by flat developments."

Wycombe District Council received the application and it is currently under consultation.

Phil Perkins, Joan's son, did not want to comment on the application.

Stephen Britnell, managing director at Henry Homes, said: "The proposals put forward by Henry Homes for the Fairacre site seek to respond to local housing needs in the area and the scheme's design has been produced to respect and respond to the surrounding area.

"Henry Homes has approached the proposed redevelopment of this site with sensitivity and recognises its constraints and opportunities.

"In respect of ecological matters relating to the site, an independent and specialist consultant has been appointed and Henry Homes recognises the need to manage such issues appropriately and with due care and consideration. In light of such matters, appropriate mitigation measures will be produced and discussed with council officers.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

NEWS



- 31 councillors standing down



- Wycombe soldier's Kenyan project



- Secret garden under threat

SPORT

- There are no bigger games
- Tough choices for McGeechan
- Wedding? What wedding? I'm playing rugby

WASPS

- Tough choices for McGeechan

COMPETITIONS



- Win £500 worth of John Lewis vouchers with SPA natural mineral water



- Win a Persil prize pack



- Indulge in Waitrose organic food hampers

VOTE

Should there be a unitary authority to replace the county and district councils

 Yes

 No

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"We will continue to work with council officers in respect of the scheme and look forward to holding further discussions."

8:00am Saturday 21st April 2007

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Posted by: Hungry Badger, high wycombe on [9:37am Sat 21 Apr 07](#)

There are laws protecting badger sets so they may find a lot of problems trying to get this done.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: JD, High Wycombe on [9:52am Sat 21 Apr 07](#)

Sally wrote:
well who agreed planning permission on this land? its the sodding council again isnt it? people should camp out in the garden and stop the bulldozers coming in we have to make a stand against this kind of bullying!

gon on then - who is stopping you? Like most BFP readers - whinge whinge whinge - but do nothing about it. Pathetic.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: John Prescott, Westminster, SW1 on [10:47am Sat 21 Apr 07](#)

This WILL go through, or I'll make it subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order. I want 280,000 Homes built across the Thames Valley before 2010 to accomodate all my Immigrant friends...so b0llox to the lot of you!!

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Ivor Bigun on [12:05pm Sat 21 Apr 07](#)

Of course this garden should be saved from developers, it is just the type of development proposed here that has ruined this town, sadly the council have let most of them go through.

Let's hope the protected status of the badger sets will help to stop this unnecessary and unwanted development.

Have you seen Ivor's blog? Click on the "Opinion" link on the menu on the left then click on "Bucks Blog".

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: WattT, Wycombe on [12:39pm Sat 21 Apr 07](#)

The usual conspiracy of freemasons, architects, surveyors and other assorted Tories will push it through. Jobs for the boys, payoff for the school and more concrete over our open spaces.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Sally, camping out on [7:17am Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

why have the comments been deleted are we not allowed to slag off the Council? JD is a very sad individual by the way

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Ex Wycomber, Far Away on [9:44am Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

Yeah, especially as one of the comments was exposing one of the school governors being the architect of this whole project. Sickens me how our schools are run by such greedy fat cats, what does example does this set to the children? I call for his head!

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: HenryH, Wycombe on [12:26pm Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

Developer is Henry Homes plc. whose architects are HAP Partners. HAP senior partner Chris Harvey of Amersham Hill also geovernor of school. See for yourself at WDC Planning portal.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

7 Almost £9,000 paid for councillors' snacks

8 Edwards: Rugby is as big as football

9 Ex-boxer awards top businesses

10 Cut cable causes crossing problems

Today | 7 Days

Posted by: Macca, Western Australia on
[3:27pm Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

Shame on you shame shame shame
 you have something unique there something
 beautiful
 it's such a terrible shame about the councils plans
 think again
 Macca
 Western Australia

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Senator Muskie, High Wycombe on
[9:31pm Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

If the vested interests wrt governors is a true fact then it should not be deleted. The school have a moral obligation (key stage 1/2 QCA science curriculum yrs 3 and 4) to teach the kids about preservation of habitat and effects of change to habitat. Yet they are destroying a beautiful conservation area. They are not practising what they are teaching and hence there are clearly other motives behind this project along with their selfish, greed-based, incompetency.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Fair acre, Fair acre on
[9:54pm Sun 22 Apr 07](#)

www.philperkins.com/Fair-Acre/index.html

Looks like HH and Hamilton are going to do a real XXX butchers job on the site. When will the council stand up against this unadulterated violence against the beautiful garden.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

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Local News



31 councillors standing down
 8:00am Sun 22 Apr 07
 THIRTY-ONE councillors are set to retire across the county this year after choosing not to stand for the forthcoming district elections on May 3. South Bucks District Council will lose the most with 12 councillors stepping down, Chiltern District Council loses ten, and Wycombe District Council says goodbye to nine.
Reader comments (6)



Wycombe soldier's Kenyan project
 8:00am Sun 22 Apr 07
 A SOLDIER from High Wycombe has helped to build homes for park rangers at a world-famous national park in Kenya.
Reader comment (1)



Secret garden under threat
 8:00am Sat 21 Apr 07
 A SECRET garden hidden just yards from High Wycombe's town centre has been earmarked for homes, despite angry protests from neighbours who say the land is a haven for wildlife.
Reader comments (11)



Jailed for money laundering
 8:00am Sat 21 Apr 07
 A WYCOMBE man has been jailed for his role in a £500million money laundering ring in West Yorkshire six years ago.

Cut cable causes crossing problems
 5:45pm Friday 20th April 2007
 PEDESTRIANS had to dash to safety across a busy road to enjoy the sunshine on the Rye yesterday - after workmen snipped a cable connecting traffic lights.
Reader comments (8)



Ex-boxer awards top businesses
 11:52am Fri 20 Apr 07
 A WYCOMBE bedding tycoon was "knocked out" to be presented with the star prize at last night's Buckinghamshire Ambassadors Awards ceremony by a former world champion boxer.



Almost £9,000 paid for councillors' snacks
 9:21am Fri 20 Apr 07
 HARD-PRESSED taxpayers have been left to fund an extra £800 on top of a £8,000 bill - to supply councillors with sandwiches.
Reader comments (18)



Quarterly mags cost us £290,000
 1:00pm Fri 20 Apr 07
 A FATHER-OF-TWO has revealed Buckinghamshire County Council spends almost £290,000 on its quarterly magazine.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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VOTE

Should there be a unitary authority to replace the county and district councils

- Yes
 No

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Reader comments (9)

£2.5m site doesn't take plastic

10:38am Friday 20th April 2007

AN IT consultant was turned away from the new recycling centre in Beaconsfield after he took plastic bottles to the site.

Reader comments (5)

**Kart teams race to £3,000 gift**

10:24am Fri 20 Apr 07

A GO karting competition run by Princes Risborough Rotary Club has already raised more than £3,000 for local charities.

Reader comment (1)

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