

STATEMENT B4 – Jamie Siggers

Statement from Jamie Siggers, Board member of Ambition Lawrence Weston

April 2021

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jamie Siggers, I am a board member of Ambition Lawrence Weston and I've in that capacity I have been supporting the community since 2013 and working with Bristol City Council departments to deliver a community-led housing scheme for Astry Close.

In all that time, the verges stand out as being one of the strongest issues in LW, in the Neighbourhood Development Plan – and throughout the feasibility and design process for this scheme. They are typically poorly maintained, muddy from car parking, and covered in litter. They are not safe, suitable or pleasant for play or socialising, and we have confirmed that they have almost no ecological value. They have a strong negative impact across the whole neighbourhood.

The NDP – which was written by and voted on by the community – specifically allows for the verges to be used differently, including being built on if that's the right solution.

The community's designs aren't getting rid of the verges – they are improving them by proposing reducing them to a manageable scale, and designing them to reduce their misuse and maintenance. The designs maintain a substantial 6m green verge including a footpath and planted with grass and trees on Goodring Hill and barely change the current open space on Oakhanger Drive.

To be absolutely clear, this is not the result of pressure to squeeze more homes on the site or make more money. Rather, it is a deliberate design choice, driven by and for the community which lives here, is passionate about seeing improvement and sees these spaces as an issue that need resolving. This community has chosen to stand by this proposal as the best and most appropriate way to address, despite representation from the planning officer, based on his interpretation of their Neighbourhood Development Plan.

We ask for your support to the community for this proposal.