

### **STATEMENT C3 – Cllr Helen Holland**

“Members will recall the passionate debate at last week’s Council meeting where there was agreement across the Chamber (though approaches were slightly different) about the importance of protecting the city’s Green Belt and green spaces, at the same time recognising current housing need, and the ongoing challenge to meet future demand for housing.

Our commitment to retaining and sustaining the diversity of our ecology and wildlife means we have to look at making best use of previously developed, brownfield sites.

As this report makes clear, the current uses of Hengrove Leisure Park will not stay, even if this application is turned down. The space as currently configured is under-used, and outdated. It was built at a time when car-parking was over-provided, so the appearance of the site is large car parks with the buildings around the periphery. It isn’t an attractive place as it stands.

I have found it sad to read some of the social media about this application, with some people wanting to keep things as they are, while acknowledging that these facilities are not what people want, and even that they don’t themselves use them. Surely we should be aiming for better than this?

As one of the Members for a neighbouring ward, I hear every day from constituents who are desperate to be housed, or rehoused, and feel encouraged when they see developments such as the one on Hartcliffe Campus (Jessop Park) and Filwood Park, as the great majority of those who contact us want to stay living locally. This outline application preserves the very popular play area, contributes towards the important site of nature and wildlife interest at the Hengrove Mounds, would give a policy compliant 30% social and affordable homes, and space for employment uses which could potentially bring more jobs and services to the area than the current uses do.

This application gives us the chance to put into action the ambition we all share to take pressure off green spaces, and optimise a brownfield site which could bring so many more benefits to the local community than it currently does. I hope that you will support the officer recommendation and approve this outline permission.”

Thank you,

Cllr Helen Holland

Labour Councillor – Hartcliffe and Withywood