

Appendix B- Summary of most frequently asked questions

I strongly oppose the granting of the two year option and a 150 year lease on the land to the rear of 71 Holden Road on the following grounds:

1) This is Public Open Space and should not be disposed of in a 150 year lease to a private organisation, thereby excluding the public. It must remain Public Open Space for current and future residents.

Subject to statutory public open space consultation, the Committee has approved the granting of a two year call option to purchase the public open space at the rear of 71 Holden Road on a 150 year Lease subject to planning. The public are not excluded but the land is land locked and access can only be gained through the brook.

2) Because this area has not been 'maintained' it is very valuable as a natural site, both for all flora and fauna there, and, for the local population.

The Land will remain as it is; currently land locked and will be managed through an agreed Woodland Management Plan to improve its ecological contribution. This would be part of the Section 106 Planning Agreement.

3) The Land is a Borough Wide area for Nature Conservation, green chains and Metropolitan Open Space.

Only a portion of this land is metropolitan open space.

4) Contrary to Barnet Council's statement that this land is 'surplus to Council's requirements', I believe that this is not the case. Rather by its 'unmaintained' state it is a valuable example of a natural environment which has probably changed little for more than a century. Also it is used by many residents and the brook is easily crossed.

The sale of a long leasehold for 150 years of an area of Public open space will enable the Council to retain an element of control over the management of the woodland. The capital receipt which will be generated will be available for delivering the Council's corporate objectives, without any loss of visual amenity.

5) Public Open Spaces must be valued for more than their financial value and visual amenity.

The land has not been maintained because of access difficulties hence there is an accrued maintenance liability in the future for the Council if it is not sold. The site is not accessible to the public and it would be an advantage for the Council to take this opportunity, to enable a sale of a long leasehold interest for 150 years by means of a two year option to purchase. The sale will secure a capital receipt from an area of currently unusable Public Open Space, which will not be built on, and will continue to provide a visual backdrop from Dollis Brook pathway

6) There are misleading statements in the 15 December 2014 document "Fording the brook, which is not practical" and "currently landlocked and not accessible to the public" are incorrect.

The Land will remain as it is, currently land locked and largely inaccessible to the public. The land will remain undeveloped but will provide garden/ amenity land for the frontage development. No fording the brook or construction a bridge was considered but it is believed it would not be sufficient reason not to dispose of the site. Providing a bridge would provide access for maintenance at a cost which would be substantial in relation to its potential use. No maintenance has been carried out and the woodland is in a neglected state. The most economical solution is to dispose of the site by way of a long lease.

I call upon Barnet Council to reverse their decision to declare land to the rear of 71 Holden Road surplus to the council's requirements. Further that they not grant a two year call option to HGS Properties (Brookdene Holden Road Ltd) to purchase the Public Open Space at the rear of 71 Holden Road on a 150 year lease.