

Letter to Daily Mail, 13 July 2009

I write in response to Jackie Palmer (letter On The Rocks 10.07.09) and was amazed to find that our small community in Ashton Vale Bristol is suffering the same tragic fate. Small, quiet, traditional community occupying envied position with grand open spaces, abundance of protected wildlife, on the edge of South Bristol, facing massive development by aspirations for new stadium.

Large Tesco, wants Stadium to build nice big shiny superstore, Stadium (who have somewhat sweet aspirations to be a World Cup Host for 2018) want to relocate to open fields on Green Belt to build new, bigger, shinier Stadium and throw in a few hundred houses and flats (to meet the financial shortfall) So in addition to the stadium and a few hundred houses and flats, they have thrown in a fast food/drive through, hotel, conference centre and suddenly its a whole big nasty urban extension.

Of course all this is on a Site of Nature Conservation, where else would you choose to build a 42,000 seat football stadium, on a site which supports rare breeds of birds and visiting wildfowl and a few otters, grass snakes, badgers, reed buntings owls, peregrine falcons, buzzards and just 13 different species of BATS, but what price Tesco/stadium partnerships? Bristol City Council are overjoyed at the prospect of a new stadium, Tesco can do no wrong, saving an ailing Bristol from a fate worse than the black plague or a looming meteorite. Ironically what attracts people to live in Bristol is its open spaces, that you can be in the city and within five minutes be in the countryside, but what price Tesco, what price, wildlife. What is it with Tesco and Stadiums?

Go to saveourgreenspaces.org and find out what's happening in a field near you.

Ashton Vale Heritage Group - Ashton Vale Bristol
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