

A Brief History of Fields and the situation in 2021

History

FIELDS was formed in 1989 with the acronym “Fight It, Especially Land Development Schemes” to protect the countryside east of Lady Bay, either side of Adbolton Lane, from development (see note 1 below). At first it was a sub-committee of the LBCA, then became more separate.

There have been various threats over time; including a business park, a leisure complex, the Fourth Trent Crossing, a golf course, a new 50,000 seat stadium for Nottingham Forest FC. There have been 5 public enquiries in the past, which FIELDS won; unfortunately, the developers only have to win once.

The campaign was successful in involving large numbers of local people to put in objections to the various plans. A lot of background work was involved and the former Chair of LBCA, the late Lawrence Geary, and Julie Palmer (originally of Simkin’s Farm – now moved to Somerset) and many others, worked diligently through countless documents to achieve FIELDS’s successful outcomes. There have been publicity stunts and fund-raising events which included the Lady Bay Open Gardens, originally Lady Bay Open Farm and Gardens as it included Simkin’s Farm, to raise funds for legal costs.

Currently there are £15,000 FIELDS fund held in the LBCA bank account, should it be needed for legal expenses. Once the threat of the Fourth Trent Crossing was removed as the protected line (see note 2 below) has been changed to nearer Radcliffe-on-Trent and as there were no more large development plans proposed, the FIELDS committee no longer met. Since then, the money raised through Lady Bay Open Gardens has been used for the Lady Bay Community Fund to help individuals and groups in Lady Bay, with bids taken every March and October. Trustees make the decisions about the Community Fund allocation.

Current Situation (March 2021)

The Greater Nottinghamshire Strategic Plan Growth Options document was published in July 2020, Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils are carrying out a public consultation on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. As a result of a technical issue with a small number of comments sent by email, the consultation period has been extended for an additional 6 weeks so that **the deadline for comments is now Wednesday 24 March 2021**.

Here is the link to the plan documents:-

<https://gnplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/gnspgo/consultationHome>

This Strategic Plan includes options involving the development of the same area of land, east of Lady Bay. The land in question is owned largely by Notts County Council with some owned by Nottingham City Council. Currently Rushcliffe have not allocated the land for development in their Local Plan and it is Green Belt and a flood plain.

The proposed developments include:-

1. A new secondary school and primary school (to be built as academies or free schools) on the land to the east of Regatta Way. This is currently playing fields for West Bridgford Colts football clubs.
2. The primary school, which is to be a replacement for the current Lady Bay Primary School on Trent Boulevard, could be proposed for 10 Acre Field (Adbolton Lane Playing Field).
3. Housing on the north side of Adbolton Lane from Carlight Gardens Mobile Homes and Seymour/ Chatswoth/ Rutland Roads to Regatta Way.

Councillor Richard Mallender and others have already commented on the proposals made by Nottinghamshire County Council for their land in the plan.

FIELDS succeeded in the past by successfully opposing development plans – once the stage of lying in front of bulldozers has been reached, it is usually too late. We have enough volunteers in Lady Bay to combat the development but more are always welcome. **Please contact Sue Mallender for more information at susan.mallender@googlemail.com.**

Notes

1. **Scope of FIELDS.** Some recent developments are not viewed as part of FIELDS' remit but are instead dealt with by the Community Association or other local groups more directly. These include the disputed footpaths to the East of the Hook and the proposed foot/cycle bridge over the Trent (both handled through the Community Association).
2. **'Protected Line'.** Planning authorities establish 'protected lines' which earmark land for a specific purpose, usually development (so very far from 'protected' from development). Not to be confused with "defensible lines", which usually define a physical barrier after which there is no development; for example, the Grantham Canal to the A52 with no development to the north.