

**Statement on behalf of the residents of Tewkesbury to The Council of Tewkesbury BC  
regarding proposed sale of Public Open Space Lincoln Green Lane/ Gloucester Rd,  
Tewkesbury**

We wish to express, in the strongest possible terms how much we object to the recent decision by the Council's Executive Committee to sell our public open space at the entrance to the Battle Estate to enable extension of the Aldi Supermarket car park. We do not believe it is in the best interests of the community or is consistent with the Council's stated aim of ensuring Tewkesbury is "A place where a good quality of life is available for all".

If implemented, this decision will adversely affect our quality of life. Our reasons for objecting to the proposed sale of our public open space, against our previously expressed wishes, are set out below.

**1 Loss of a public benefit.** - When the estate was first built, this public open space was designed and intended to be for the benefit of those living on the estate. To replace it with a supermarket car park would significantly encroach on the open, green nature of the entrance to Lincoln Green Lane and deprive everyone who live on the Battle Estate and Gloucester Rd of a valued public benefit.

**2 Increase in Air and Noise pollution.** - Since the Supermarket was built we have noticed a definite increase in air and noise pollution locally, from cars visiting the supermarket. The trees and green space currently mitigates the effect of this for residents. If the mature trees are cut down and replaced with more car parking it will exacerbate the current nuisance and adversely affect residents with asthma living on the estate. We believe it is totally inappropriate for any Council to put a greater value on 15 car parking spaces than the health and wellbeing of hundreds of its residents.

**3 Demand for Car parking.** Residents do not agree that additional car parking for the Supermarket is required. We use this supermarket and live closest to it. The car park is not operating at full capacity. If overspill parking is now taking place in Lincoln Green Lane it is not causing nuisance to residents. We are currently conducting our own car park usage survey to prove our point and believe it will demonstrate an extension to the current car park is not essential as claimed.

**4 Impact on Tewkesbury Battlefield.** This open space was originally part of the Gastons Fields, which played an important role during the Battle of Tewkesbury. The Council recently decided to protect the "whole Battlefield" from the threat of future development and do more to promote Battlefield related tourism, – a move we fully support. Why is the Executive Committee deviating from this policy and selling off green space which is part of the original Battlefield? We do not think the Council should permit them to do so.

**5 Impact on the water table.** The Battle Estate has a high- water table and located in a flood risk zone. The replacement of 18 mature trees at the top of the estate with a tarmac car park will adversely affect the water table. Residents in Lincoln Close legitimately fear that in the event of heavy rains water run- off from the proposed car park will put houses in Lincoln Close at future risk of flash flooding. We agree.

We deplore this decision and entreat the Council to reverse it for the benefit of residents. We appreciate doing so may have financial consequences and if required are willing to explore ways in which we can purchase this open space from the Council if it is the only way of saving it for the public benefit.