

Friends of Linn Park: Reasons to Object

Protected Green Belt is being removed without due process

All four sites are currently designated Green Belt in the adopted plan and in Supporting Guidance 6, approved as recently as 2024, which restates a strong presumption against green belt development and a brownfield-first approach. The Council's own Green Belt Review found that this area contributes to NPF4 outcomes, with no part judged less useful and no finding that the area is excessive. The sites are not described or assessed as a formal green belt release, so the proper test has not been applied. Removing these sites for development would also leave a pocket of green belt stranded to the north of Simshill Road.

The proposal conflicts with NPF4

We have worked through the 'National Planning Framework 4' policy by policy and found conflict: with the aims of compact growth and limiting urban expansion, biodiversity protection and enhancement under Policies 2, 3 and 4, woodland under Policy 6, the green belt tests under Policy 8, the duty to seek disabled people's views under Policy 13, and 20-minute neighbourhoods under Policy 15, where the sites score RED on community facilities, health, public transport and active travel.

Community Interest and Consultation has been ignored

The sites were identified as community assets under the 'People make Glasgow' process. There have been several interested parties seeking to re-open the golf course, re-open the pavilion building, and extend the Local Nature Reserve designation across the whole area. None of these interested parties were consulted in the preparation of the proposed development plan.

There is no housing need to justify the release

The evidence gathering for the Development Plan does not identify a housing need in Linn Ward. The Local Housing Land Requirement of 22,569 already includes 25% flexibility, and the deliverable pipeline indicated in the proposed Development Plan provides over 31,000 homes, well beyond what is required. With brownfield and compact growth as stated priorities, releasing green belt here is unnecessary.

Other protective designations have not been reviewed

The sites also carry a 'Site of Special Landscape Importance' designation and 'Open Space and Sports Area' protections. There is no evidence the Site of Special Landscape Importance has been reviewed, or found to no longer apply. Open space should not be released until assessed as redundant through the Open Space Strategy process. The course has been closed since COVID, but no such redundancy assessment has been carried out.

Green space and public access would be lost

Beyond the loss of green belt and open space, the development proposal removes the only public toilet serving the park and golf course. The car park provides access to Linn Park Local Nature Reserve, always has served the park and golf course. Access for disabled people has not been assessed.

The site descriptions are inaccurate or incomplete

The descriptions omit the Green Belt and landscape designations, mislabel land to the east as open space when it is green belt, and imply the clubhouse is a standalone brownfield site. The appraisal scores are mostly Red and Amber with a net-negative environmental assessment, but these only partly surface in the proposal document.

Process and consultation failures

The sites were not shared with the community council or ward councillors before inclusion, recorded community interest in the course and clubhouse has been ignored, and there was no consultation with Friends of Linn Park on the green belt release, tree planting or cemetery proposals.