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I am most concerned by the prospect of losing a huge swathe and reasonably well used open space, consisting of the public recreation ground, running track, school sports field and woods adjacent to the Basingstoke canal. The Council cannot activate its objective of providing 292 new dwellings without using this space yet its destruction would entirely ruin the character of the estate.

Apart from the loss of amenities the scheme has the following elements.

1 Much of the proposed new housing and the leisure centre will be built on land which is regularly flooded during winter months. Not only would the new housing be at risk but there would be potential for water to drain off to other parts of the estate not currently affected.

2. The substitute small areas of Green space proposed by the council would not compensate for the amenities lost but would be difficult to manage and would probably end up like other greens on the estate, being used as supplementary car parks. Capacity given that 292 new homes would be equivalent to 400 new cars in an area that is already beginning to look like an extended parking lot.

3. Destruction of the admittedly poorly managed woods and the extra light from housing and the Leisure Centre will destroy the habitat of Bats and Woodpeckers and many other bird species.

4. The creation of a Leisure Centre, even if affordable, will in no way compensate for the genuine recreation facilities that will be lost by the destruction of so much open space.

Restrict the development to areas that really need it such as the ugly 3 storey flats above the Dartmouth Avenue Shopping Parade. Concentrate any new

Housing on undented parts of the two industrial estates adjacent to Sheerwater.