

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Wildlife Recorder for the Friends of Brinsley Headstocks, I would like to register my concern over the Church Lane proposed development site in Brinsley, which borders an area of the Brinsley Headstocks Local Nature Reserve SINC (Site of Interest for Nature Conservation).

The development would certainly have a negative impact on the reserve, part of which is situated on the opposite bank of Brinsley Brook. This area is particularly valuable for wildlife and contains a newly constructed wildlife pond, which Broxtowe Borough Council had constructed in 2017. The pond is not yet full, due to the exceptionally dry summer of 2018, but the potential for attracting wildlife will be much reduced if a housing development was constructed nearby. We have also worked hard to improve plant biodiversity in this area by spreading seed and planting plugs of appropriate native species. Another concern is light pollution, which will adversely affect the healthy bat population which hunts in this area. In a bat survey in 2015, we recorded at least twelve pipistrelle bats in this area, together with smaller numbers of noctule and brown long-eared bats. This area is also the breeding territory of a pair of little owls, which is a declining species and willow tit has been seen in this area in recent years, nest boxes have been installed to try and attract this red list (critically endangered) species.

The farmland where the alternative proposed development is situated, on Cordy Lane, would appear to be low grade from a wildlife perspective and would have a much reduced impact on the wildlife in the area.

I will be unable to attend the Hearings in person, but I hope that this written submission is considered.

Yours faithfully,

John Eyre : Wildlife Recorder, Friends of Brinsley Headstocks.