



Holt Town: Neighbourhood Development Framework Consultation

Submission from Manchester and Salford Ramblers

Introduction

This submission is on behalf of the Manchester and Salford Ramblers. We are the local organisation of the national walking charity, the Ramblers, and we help everyone, everywhere, enjoy walking and protect the places we all love to walk.

Walkable streets

We welcome the objective of a walkable street network that puts pedestrians first and to enhance the River Medlock and Ashton Canal corridors.

Provision for walking is good, particularly the proposed "play street" in the low-rise housing area.

We believe that the Framework should build on the success of City Link and realise the potential of the Ashton Canal. These routes need to be enhanced and to maintain a feel of being in nature even though its an urban area.

Woodland Town

We agree that the vegetation that has reclaimed part of the area should be the foundation of the Woodland Town and as much of the existing tree cover should be retained and there should be a positive assessment of the flora and fauna already existing.

Impact of Development on walking experience and the Confluence Park

We have real concerns however about the impact of canal side development on Ashton Canal and in the Valley Area.

The proposed high rise between the Ashton Canal and River Medlock would seriously compromise the Confluence Park and the three high rise blocks in the Holt Town Arrival space would all but destroy the existing riverside meadow and adversely impact on the quality of the City Link. (At its maximum this site is only around 80 meters wide).

In addition, the proposals for the "Confluence Park" are somewhat unambitious and should instead learn from the experience of the development of the Mayfield Park.

Manchester Green Trail

Other key connections should be built on, for example the Manchester Green Trail.

The route of the Manchester Green Trail comes through the Framework Area along Beswick Street, linking the Ashton Canal with lower Medlock Valley. The Trail is a walking circuit made of 14 routes around the City of Manchester and it connects many of the City's parks, woodlands and open spaces, it was a partnership initiative between the City Council and the Ramblers. For more information, [please follow this link](#).

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