

## **Unique Reference 20037881**

### **Observations regarding Planning Inspectorate (PI) Hearing 29.09.2023**

As a long term Wigmore resident, and a walker in Wigmore Park, and in the fields beyond (planned to be the replacement park), I felt uncomfortable about the ease with which the applicant representative reassured the PI that orchid seeds would blow over to the “replacement” park. If that is so why is it that in the decades I have watched the orchids multiply in Wigmore Park (particularly in the County Wildlife Site area) I have never seen a Common Spotted Orchid (which grow in their hundreds), or any other wild orchid set seed in the replacement park?

It is well documented that orchids do require a particular type of chalky mycofungal soil to germinate. Ref **Wild Orchids of Wigmore Park, Luton. Hogg 2018; Pocket Guide to the Orchids of Britain and Ireland, Simon Harrup 2016**

I would like to ask:

1. Whereabouts in the replacement park the soil composition will be conducive to orchid germination?
2. What residual agricultural pesticides remain in the soil posing a barrier to orchid development?