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Deadline 10/11

Over the past decades, along with my family and neighbours, I have walked in Wigmore Park, and around, and across, the fields beyond, always known to us as the wheat fields.

By way of a summary I am submitting a poem which was published in the local paper, The Luton News on Wednesday 20th October, 2021. The poem relates to two parks in the East of Luton bordering on Hertfordshire, both Wandon Park, and Wigmore Park. In the case of Wandon Park Luton Borough Council have given Planning Permission to fill it with housing.

(I have been granted permission from the poem's author to make use of his work).

Poem: Welcome to Luton

Welcome to Luton.

As you drive in it says on the sign

Home of the Airport - London Luton

It's not hard to find.

Innovative, vibrant ambitious and proud.

That's true of our people. Not the heads of our town.

The Council is failing, innovative they're not.

As all of our money goes into one pot.

Borrowing millions with only one aim.

The people of Luton are paying again.

Services that are cut to the bone.

Still, plenty of money for more Airport loans.

Destroying our parks all over town.

We're told to plant trees,

But they keep cutting them down.

"Our house is on fire" as Greta would say

Where in our future will our children play?

Covid has shown us, that we need cleaner air.

Places for people and nature to share.

Wandon and Wigmore and more for the chop

Surely, it's time for the murder to stop.

Decisions that are made behind a closed door.

Is this the democracy that we voted for?

The 'Vision for Luton'.

Let the people have their view.

But our voices aren't heard.

Only those, of the powerful few.

So please, Luton Council, be innovative and brave.
Invest in the future, let's not dig our own grave.
Ambitious, we can reach for the skies.
But we don't have to do it with planes in our eyes.
A sustainable option should be the way.
The sun and the wind are here every day.
So, if you are serious about cutting emissions.
As this is costing the earth
It just makes no sense to keep committing the offence
Of making our communities a dearth.
A climate emergency has been declared.
But still you have not changed course.
As you keep putting our bets on flogging the same old horse.
Divest in the airport and the fossil fool way!
The planet needs cooling... not burning away.
The Paris Agreement 2050 Net Zero, surely must come into play.
But to achieve that ambition
We have to just listen,
To what scientists say
We have to make change, although times are hard.
The best place to start....
Is in our own backyard.

Dim Aak
(Lifelong Lutonian)