

Within Woodside Cemetery there is an area which many years ago housed greenhouses. These were used to grow plants, which were then sold within the community. When it ceased to be used in this way, it became a DEPOT for the cemetery machinery.

In 1998, I realised it was going to be used as a GRAFFITI and SKATEBOARD park. With the help of the media, we prevented this and were promised it would never again be under threat in this way. We were asked to put forward ideas for its use which we did, but they were never acted upon.

Once again, the cemetery is under threat because ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL has proposed to allocate £100K to be offered to two community projects. One, a new community hall, not near the cemetery. The other, an Eco Art Hub, this within the cemetery. With the Hub, a charity, has offered £3 million more, but the community hall has not been offered anything. When I found out that ballot papers were not being received for the community hall project, I wrote telling the council this and yesterday they decided to divide the money in half, each getting £50K. This is good for the community hall because I believe they were not going to get anything. Regrettably, the Art Hub is still on.

When I first discovered this was all happening I contacted my County Council (Castle Point Borough Council). They advised me they knew nothing about it and said since they owned the said land and Essex Council had no right over this land.

Lastly, the Council keep referring to this land as Woodside PARK. The Park is on the opposite side of the cemetery and is separated by a road. There are acres of land there. Why don't they use that?

We need to raise awareness to stop this monstrosity from taking up part of our cemetery. Please work with us to prevent this from happening.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Jo Carter
Friends of Woodside Cemetery
24th March 2010