

Wendy Inggs

Yatton Batch is extremely important to our family. In 2019 we moved to Yatton from the city of Manchester. Our eldest was 4 and he needed a quieter and slower pace of life. He is autistic and finds being amongst nature a great comfort. We loved Yatton as it was a perfect mix of countryside and friendly community, with the possibility to drive to the coast and city.

As we have grown as a family, it has become apparent that our youngest, now 6 is also autistic. We are lucky enough to have a wonderful garden, which we have transformed into a wildlife area. However, as we live on the high street, there is never the quiet that the boys crave when they are at their most fraught. In addition, my youngest has a highly sensitive nose, and will often mention the pollution 'smell.'

When the children need to get away from it all, the family walk down the Strawberry Line to the heart of Yatton batch. We sit and listen to the nature around us. The boys love to use an app to identify the birdsong around them. We love to go insect hunting and see how many we can find.

The thought of houses being built on their 'safe place' is very upsetting. The prospect of the ecosystem changing will be devastating, and the general hubbub of people, is exactly what we go to avoid.

I am aware that there is an argument that there are other places in our area. This is correct. However, there are no other places that we can walk to as a family. My hope was that when my eldest is old enough, he could take himself down there when he felt overwhelmed, in order to 'reset' himself. Now we have the prospect of that being taken away from us.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal, for our family, and I am sure many others.