

Ans. Sanders

CLERK OF THE PEACE AND CLERK OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BIRMINGHAM	
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20th March, 1931.

Dear Hart,

Purchase of White Webb's Park Farm, Enfield.

With reference to your letter of the 10th March, the memorandum sent out contained some queries which were inappropriate, and I am sorry it was sent out. You will appreciate that the proper exercise of the loan sanctioning power gives us no choice except to satisfy ourselves about these cases, and I should say that what we ought to have in your case is:-

1. An explanation of the proposals, and a statement as to the need for the provision of the open space. We assume that the land is to be acquired as a public pleasure ground, under the Open Spaces Act, 1906 (Section 14), and not under Section 69 of the Public Health Act, 1925, as land for playing fields, which may be closed to the public and let to clubs. In any case we should like to know how/

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how the land is proposed to be used, and what works of adaptation, if any, are contemplated.

2. A report by the County Surveyor or some other qualified technical officer, as to the suitability of the site for the purpose in view. There may, for instance, be questions as to the suitability of the site for use for games, or there may be questions of levelling or drainage. In the past pleasure grounds acquired without adequate technical advice have sometimes proved excessively costly to lay out.

3. A large scale plan (say 6" to the mile) to illustrate the proposals, showing by distinctive colour the site of the land to be acquired, and, if possible, a plan or map showing at least the larger open spaces in the part of the County to be served by the scheme. A map of this kind for the whole County would be very useful to us in connection with the Council's present practice of purchasing land direct, but we do not wish to ask for it in this particular case unless it can conveniently be provided.

4. A report from the District Valuer as to price, which I understand has already been obtained.

The remaining point is publicity. I think it might be well to put a notice in some newspaper circulating in the locality where the land is situate in each of two successive weeks briefly setting out the proposal and intimating that any person interested in the subject matter of the application may make any objections or representations to the Council in writing within a period of 14 days from the date of this advertisement, a copy of the objections or representations to be forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Health.

Yours sincerely,

W. Robinson