



MPF AT RISK!

SAVE OUR VILLAGE GREEN !



STEYNING PARISH COUNCIL IS PROPOSING TO DE-REGISTER THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD FROM VILLAGE GREEN STATUS.

IF THE COUNCIL IS SUCCESSFUL THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD WILL BE UNPROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT OF ANY KIND.

THE CURRENT VILLAGE GREEN STATUS GIVES THE HIGHEST PROTECTION IN THE LAND TO THE MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THIS PROTECTION TAKEN AWAY?

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Parish Council's secrecy

Steyning Parish Council has withdrawn its application to build a skatepark in the Memorial Playing Field (MPF), following Horsham District Council's decision that it cannot approve the application because of the protection that Village Green status provides.

Many Steyning residents are astonished and horrified that the Parish Council intends to remove the protection of Village Green Status from the MPF.

Certain members of the Parish Council were summoned to two Extraordinary General Meetings in August this year to discuss stripping away the Village Green protection for the Memorial Playing Field.

Councillors who were present, and whose names were withheld from the public, voted to start the process by seeking legal advice.

The public and press were excluded from the meetings and no minutes or public record are available.



The Memorial Playing Field is a unique open green space and has the invaluable status of also being a Village Green. The action of the Parish Council to now strip away this protection has created huge concern amongst many Steyning residents.

The Parish Council has stated that the reason for removing this protection is to ensure the MPF is preserved in perpetuity for sports and recreation and the clubs that operate on the Field are able to carry out maintenance and repairs. Of course, this is exactly what Village Green status guarantees, and the clubs can operate without problem.

The real reason for removing Village Green protection is to allow the Parish Council to build the controversial skatepark.

What is Village Green Status?



Steyning Parish Council is seeking to remove the status of Village Green protection from the Memorial Playing Field. This will leave the Memorial Playing Field vulnerable and open to any type of development.

At its meeting on 8th September 2014, the Parish Council told the public that the 40 year old registration of the village green, made by the Parish Council itself, was "unauthorised" and so needed to be "rectified". This is not true. The 1974 Village Green application form was completed by the Council's Chairman, Councillor Blackie, who swore an oath that he had been duly authorised.

Village Green status provides our open spaces with the highest level of protection. With the pressure of commercial and residential development increasing, it's becoming even more important to preserve our green open spaces.

Village Green status prevents any despoliation of an open space and guarantees its use for sport and recreation by all, for ever.

With Village Green protection, the beauty of our Memorial Playing Field will be preserved in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

The removal of this protection, which our Parish Council is attempting to do, will put the future of this invaluable space at serious risk.

We need to preserve our open spaces for everyone to enjoy for ever!

The Memorial Playing Field is Steyning's "Jewel in the Crown"

We must preserve it for future generations!

- ▶ Village Greens are part of our English heritage and so shouldn't ours be protected and enjoyed by everyone?
- ▶ Steyning residents should be proud of our Village Green and feel honoured to be part of a community that has one
- ▶ Village Greens are cherished by residents and admired by visitors
- ▶ Let's work together to preserve our Village Green and prevent any further incursions and loss of space
- ▶ 91% of people believe that public parks and green open spaces improve their quality of life
- ▶ Village Green status is the highest level of protection in England and must be kept to protect the Memorial Playing Field

Our Memorial Playing Field is at risk!

The Parish Council wants to remove the protection of Village Green status, but here are some of the reasons why Village Green status must remain:

- ▶ Any legal challenge to remove current Village Green status from the Memorial Playing Field is likely to end up in the Supreme Court, possibly costing Steyning council tax payers more than £200,000
- ▶ Without the protection of Village Green status, this area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is in the South Downs National Park, will be at risk from any type of development including a skatepark
- ▶ With Village Green status removed, the enjoyment of the Memorial Playing Field is likely to be destroyed
- ▶ The Memorial Playing Field provides many users with pleasure - picnickers, cricketers, stoolball players, footballers, dog walkers, informal play groups, and people just casually enjoying the peace and tranquillity the Field provides
- ▶ Our Parish Council is trying to do something which must be unique - strip away its own community's Village Green protection so that it can build something which the Village Green protection prohibits. Attacking Village Green status is normally the preserve of property developers who stand to make millions. Councils normally join with their communities to try to defend the status

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP KEEP OUR MPF PROTECTED

You can oppose the Parish Council plan to remove Village Green status by writing to: The Parish Clerk, Steyning Parish Council, The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning, BN44 3YH, or email to: spcclerk@btconnect.com or call 01903 812042.

Alternatively, you can join our campaign - contact us at mail@fompf.org or by writing to Friends of Memorial Playing Field, c/o Toad Lodge, Newham Lane, Steyning, BN44 3LR.

PLEASE DO ONE OR THE OTHER TODAY!



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