

**LAND DISPOSAL STEAD LANE / PARKSIDE RECREATION GROUND HOYLAND
COMMON - OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 123 (1) 2(A)**

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS

- 1.0 The first objection was received by Email on 12 October 2020 at 11:19
- 1.1 The Email simply stated “I hereby formally give my objections to any disposal of public open space on a Stead Lane Hoyland Common Ref: PY/IC/103/17554”
- 1.2 The specific response from Legal and Estates officers

This objection merits no formal response because it does not state any reasons for the objection.
- 2.0 The second objection was received by letter dated 25 October 2020, which was a follow up to a letter dated 27 September which was sent to Planning Officers dealing with the current planning application.
- 2.1 The overall objections contained can be summarised as follows: -
 - 1. There is an abundance of protected and endangered wildlife which rely on this field for their habitat or feeding purposes. The wildlife listed included the following animals: -
 - 1.1 Hedgehogs
 - 1.2 Grass snakes
 - 1.3 Skylarks
 - 1.4 Greenwoodpeckers, Sparrowhawks and Kestrels have been sighted.
 - 1.5 Great Crested Newts
 - 1.6 Frogs
 - 1.7 Field mice
 - 1.8 Shrews
 - 1.9 Foxes have been spotted nearby
 - 2. There is also reference to the site being pipistrelle bat corridor and a pond down the lane.
 - 3. The objectors are claiming that the site is of archaeological significance and are claiming that there are historical remains from the English Civil War.
 - 4. In addition, the objectors are stating that there was a prisoner of war camp in this location during the second world war.
 - 5. The objectors are of the opinion that there is an abundance of sporting facilities within this part of Hoyland, quoting the sports centre and football fields off Skiers View Road.

6. Finally they state that the Rockingham Community Building has only recently been refurbished at a huge cost to the public purse and stating that the proposals to demolish it will be a waste of public money.

2.2 The specific responses from Legal and Estates officers:

1. The wellbeing of local wildlife, whether or not protected by law, and the ecology of the site will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility. It has already been considered as part of the planning application for the Hermes development, which included the proposed new link road.
2. Ditto the above. The existence of any bat corridor will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility.
3. Again any archaeological significance will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility. It should have already been considered as part of the planning application for the Hermes development, which included the proposed new link road.
4. The reference to historical remains from the second world war, are claimed to have been found within the garden of the objectors' bungalow, which is on the opposite side of Stead Lane. Therefore, this may not be relevant to the recreation ground, but in any event this is something that will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility.
5. Without information to the contrary it is assumed that the objectors are referring to the Hoyland Sports Centre and the adjoining fields, which form part of the leased area for the Kirk Balk School, which is part of the Northern Education Academy Trust. It is accepted that these pitches may be available for hire through the Academy Trust and the use of the Sports Centre facilities through Barnsley Premier Leisure. However, the new pitches proposed for the subject site, will not be playable for a few years so the main use of the site for the first few years will be for archery. This activity will be located on part of the site that is being provided by the Fitzwilliam Estate. Having said this, the Council receives numerous requests for land for football use, and it is thought that there may be a shortage of good quality football pitches available for hire, given the number of enquiries received. Whilst Forge may well be operating from two separate sites within Hoyland Common for a while, they will relocate to the new sports ground once the proposed facilities at Stead Lane / Parkside are completed and available for use. This should have a balancing effect on the number of football pitches within the Hoyland Common area.
6. The comments are noted in relation to the community hall, but the refurbishment of the building was undertaken using Big Lottery Fund monies, and happened around 10-years ago, according to the date on the funding agreement. Having said this, the community building will remain in place for a number of years, but it will be replaced on the Stead Lane / Parkside site prior to its demolition and following the final surrender of the Rockingham Sports Ground. The replacement building will be a more energy efficient, modern building, which will replace an older style community building.

3.0 The third objection was received by Email on 26 October 2020 at 09:59

3.1 The objections contained can be summarised as follows: -

1. This land is treated as common land by villagers and has been for the last 50+ years since the creation of the Parkside council estate.
2. The transfer of land into a sports venue will ensure that only a few, fee paying locals will enjoy the benefits of it whereas its adoption into the original estate was based on the principles of benefit for all.
3. Many hundreds of local residents, primarily dog walkers, use this land on a daily basis. The disposal of this land would leave these people to walk dogs on the streets leading to an increase in antisocial behaviour & criminality such as dog fouling.
4. Additionally it will impact upon the health and well-being of locals as for many this local land is their only opportunity to experience the outdoors.
5. The disposal of this land will ensure that development will go ahead to the detriment of local wildlife, protected by law, such as bats.
6. A local hedgehog rescuer uses the field as a release site. Skylarks, a conservation red list bird can be heard and seen in spring.
7. The Council should do everything in its power to maintain the land for the benefit of wildlife that is protected by law.
8. Many local people are dissatisfied by the ecological reports done as part of the planning process.
9. People without internet, have been unable to view plans as libraries have been closed.
10. Local people do not feel that they have been consulted and many are unaware of the plans and therefore many have lost their democratic right to comment upon the planning procedure.

3.2 The specific responses from Legal and Estates officers:

1. It is recognised that the land is currently an area of public open space, but it is a recreation ground which has lacked investment meaning it is not an attractive public facility and it is not Common Land as stated.
2. The land has not been formally adopted into the adjoining estate and whilst it is recognised that the proposed community sporting ground will make a charge for the use of the newly constructed sporting facilities, the charges will be reasonable (as Forge Community Partnership's fees have always been) given that it will be operated for the benefit of the community. The land will also benefit from a new community building at the date of the proposed new lease.

3. It is recognised that the land is mainly used by dog walkers. However, the public footpath that cuts across the site from Sheffield Road to Stead Lane will be unaffected, still allowing dog walkers easy access from Sheffield Road to Stead Lane and back. However, whilst this point is accepted as having some validity, dog fouling is something that is equally unacceptable on the public highway or in an area of public open space. As a result, it is not considered that the disposal of this area of public open space will significantly increase the incidence of dog fouling in other locations.
4. This is purely a speculative objection with little if any validity, as there are other areas of open space available in relatively close proximity to this land. In addition the high volume of use by dog walkers, as claimed by the objector, may well adversely affect the use of the site by other local people for other uses, especially if dog fouling is found to be an issue.
5. The wellbeing of local wildlife, whether or not protected by law, and the ecology of the site will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility. It has already been considered as part of the planning application for the Hermes development, which included the proposed new link road.
6. Ditto the above response as the Council will consider and has considered the wellbeing of local wildlife and the ecology of the site in current and past planning applications.
7. Ditto the above response as the Council will consider and has considered the wellbeing of local wildlife and the ecology of the site in current and past planning applications.
8. The Council will consider and has considered the ecological aspects of the site in current and past planning applications.
9. The plans were available to view at Barnsley Library @The Lightbox, 1 The Glass Works, Barnsley S70 1GW, which is open, as well as the Council's website.
10. The local people have been consulted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 123(1), (2a) and will continue to be and have been consulted in the current and past planning applications. Therefore it is not considered that there has been any loss of democratic rights.

4.0 The forth objection was received by Email on 26 October 2020 at 11:11

4.1 The objections contained can be summarised as follows: -

1. The objector claims that they and many others have used this field for exercising and walking their dogs for over 50 years and estimates that around 300 people per day make use of the field for dog walking purposes, and some people travel from other parts of the Borough to use the site for this purpose. The disposal of this land would leave these people to walk dogs on the streets leading to an increase in antisocial behaviour & criminality such as dog fouling.
2. The council have made no alternative green space available for the free use of local people.

3. Parkside field is a valuable space for children to play in. Many safely play football without the need for joining a fee paying club.
4. This space is valuable for the health and well-being of local people.
5. It is home to many protected species, such as hedgehogs & bats, who will face habitat loss should this disposal of land go ahead.
6. The objector feels that public consultation around the development of this field, which they consider to be a valuable community asset, has not been publicised widely enough.
7. The objector feels that the space should remain a community asset open to all members of the community and feels that this well used area of green space should remain open and undeveloped, given that the remaining greenspace within Hoyland is earmarked for development.

4.2 The specific responses from Legal and Estates officers: -

1. It is recognised that the land is mainly used by dog walkers. However, the public footpath that cuts across the site from Sheffield Road to Stead Lane will be unaffected, still allowing dog walkers easy access from Sheffield Road to Stead Lane and back. However, whilst this point is accepted as having some validity, dog fouling is something that is equally unacceptable on the public highway or in an area of public open space. As a result, it is not considered that the disposal of this area of public open space will significantly increase the incidence of dog fouling in other locations.
2. The comments around the provision of greenspace have been noted and this will form part of the Master Planning Framework and be considered and has been considered as part of the current and past planning applications.
3. Whilst this particular comment has some validity, it is felt that the site in its current state is not particularly conducive to playing football upon. Given the numbers of apparent dog walkers using the site, then it could be considered that dog fouling of the site could well be an issue. In addition, and given that many young people are members of various football clubs, then it is considered that the development of this site for sporting purposes will provide much better, high quality pitches for the playing of football and other sports. This will be especially true if match funding is obtained from the Football Association, which will no doubt be a valuable asset for grass roots football. Finally and as previously stated the new sporting facilities will be a community run venture, operated by the Forge Community Partnership, which is an all-inclusive organisation, which will provide sporting and other opportunities to local people. It is envisaged that the rates charged will be reasonable given that it will be operated for the benefit of the community. There will also be a new community building run by the Forge which will be usable by many different types of community groups.
4. Whilst this point of view may have a degree of validity, it could be argued that due to the high volume of use by dog walkers, as claimed by the objector, that this may well adversely affect the use of the site by other local people for

alternative uses, especially if dog fouling is found to be an issue. In addition the facilities that will be provided will be more wide ranging than pure sporting facilities. These will be provided for the benefit of the local and wider community, at a reasonable rate, as the site will be operated by an all-inclusive community organisation. This should have wider benefits for the health and well-being of the local and wider community.

5. As previously stated the wellbeing of local wildlife, whether or not protected by law, and the ecology of the site will be considered as part of the planning process for the proposed new sporting facility. It has already been considered as part of the planning application for the Hermes development, which included the proposed new link road.
6. The local people have been consulted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 123(1), (2a) and will continue to be and have been consulted in the current and past planning applications. It is therefore considered that the publicity around this and the Hermes proposal have been adequately publicised, and people have been given and are still given the opportunity to object.
7. By granting the lease to Forge Community Partnership the Council is undertaking a "Community Asset Transfer" on a underused, poor quality recreation ground. The proposal will see the provision of better quality greenspace open to all users, and the Hoyland West Master Planning Framework will ensure the provision of adequate greenspace within this part of the Borough.