



29 July 2009

Ray Lee
Horsham District Council
Park North
North Street
Horsham, RH12 1RL

Dear Mr Lee

Registration of Town Greens

When we met recently to discuss the Society's request that HDC voluntarily apply for the registration of local greens you suggested that we identify a small number of priority sites.

The Horsham Town Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document stresses the importance of the many open spaces in the town and the need to protect them from future development. Many are small areas which have either escaped development or were provided as an attractive setting when developments were less dense than is normal today. Registration of these greens as Town Greens would provide the strongest safeguard.

As you know it is possible for residents to apply for registration but the process is difficult and requires the provision of evidence of public use for a period of 20 years which is often difficult to obtain, particularly in areas with a relatively high population turnover. Nevertheless residents have successfully applied for registration of spaces at Cootes Green and Ramsey Close.

The Commons Act 2006 considerably simplifies the registration process by allowing land owner to apply (in our case to WSCC) to voluntarily register land as a Town Green as it does not require the usual tests to be satisfied.

Were HDC to voluntarily register the green spaces in its ownership it would send a strong signal of support for its own urban development policies and hopefully act as a spur to other landowners to act similarly.

Having looked at the HDC land holdings we would suggest that there are five sites which the Council could consider registering as a first step. This would allow it to test the new procedures and gauge the amount of work required (which we believe to be very small).

New Street, green behind the Brighton Road Baptist Church (TQ177303)

This is a small but ancient green very close to the town centre which is a good example of the urban green spaces which the Council's policy seeks to protect. We understand that Evan Giles is considering independently whether there are improvements that could be made to encourage greater public use but registration would not be a bar to this.

Pennybrook Green, Guildford Road (TQ163309)

This is a small but visually important green on a major route into the town. There are already two seats which provide an opportunity for pedestrians to rest when walking to and from the town centre.

Crawley Road, Roffey, either side of Church Road (TQ198324)

This green area acts as a buffer between the Crawley Road, another major route into the town, and the new housing off Church Lane. The southern section, being wider, is particularly attractive and potentially more at risk of future development.

Redkiln Way / Oak Tree Way (TQ187316)

This green abuts Redkiln Way, on both sides of Oak Tree Way. It makes a considerable contribution to softening the urban street scene and provides a buffer between the industrial area and the adjacent housing.

Hills Farm Recreation Ground, Hills Farm Lane/ Blackbridge Lane (TQ162302)

This open space is a key feature of the Needles estate and of significant landscape importance. It warrants protection as a Town Green.

If we can be of any further assistance at this stage please let me know.

Yours sincerely

John Steele