



Open Spaces Working Group

The Green

Recently we received an application for a commercial venture to use the Green for their activities.

The Green is both Registered Common Land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and Open Land under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act).

The former would potentially allow certain activities to take place, however, the later prevents ALL activities except access on foot, sightseeing, birdwatching, running, climb rockfaces and exercise dogs.

The CROW Act prohibits certain activities, and that does specifically include any commercial activity, including any activity that a charge is made for any activity that could be carried out free of charge and that restricts public participation.

Certain other activities are allowed such as the historic use of a fair or market or historic village fete.

So, the Parish is not in the position to ever give permission for any commercial venture to use the Green, but can give permission for historic fairs or fetes to take place.

The Mead (Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Dog Walking Field) and the Play Area in Bradenstoke

Recently we received an application for a commercial venture to use the Mead or the Play area for their activities.

We are currently seeking further guidance on this, as there may be complications with the deeds which may affect any decision.

Currently it looks as if we will not be allowed to do this due to the terms and covenants on the original conditions when we purchased the land.



Anti-Social Behaviour in the local area

We know that of late there has been a lot of disquiet in the parish with regards to ongoing anti-social behaviour, and we want to address that now.

We are thinking here of the Baileys Hill area, which we know is very special in the hearts to many of the village residents, but there is also a large element of anti-social behaviour on or around Slessor Field, in the woods down towards Lost Valley, around St Michael's Church, around the White Hart, Pintail Field and so on. It is not restricted to one area; it often moves between areas.

We would like to make it clarify that much of the anti-social behaviour, littering, damage, and drinking is taking place on private land. All this land has one thing in common, it is land over which we have no factual jurisdiction, so legally it is up to the landowner if they wish would pursue this matter with the Police, or not.

However, we will make it very clear we will support and assist any landowners, should they wish to pursue the matter, and work with the landowners to reduce or stop the anti-social behaviour on their land.

We know that the Police have attended several times, and they have spoken to the people involved. We fully support the police in carrying out these provocative actions.

Members of the public have raised concerns regarding feeling intimidated or threatened when they have come across large groups, we have spoken to the Police about this and they ask anyone who feels threatened or intimidated by any group to call 101 and report the activity.

They are very disappointed how many people complain about these groups on Social Media, but do not call and talk to the Police. As the Police point out, unless people call and talk to them, they cannot deal with or react to anti-social behaviour.



We are also aware that members of the community are blaming certain elements as being the perpetrators, however, as the Police have made clear, when they have attended there is a mix of communities involved, including personnel off base, dependants and local residents.

This is not an excuse, but currently this is a village without any public house, a village without a café, a village where (at present) drinking on base is prevented, a village that doesn't have facilities for people to socialise in, and we know that this doesn't help one little bit. It is not an excuse, though it can be seen as a reason that needs to be addressed.

We are also aware that dealing with anti-social behaviour is never a quick matter, if it is stopped in one area it will inevitably move to another, which may even be more dangerous than before. So, we will be working with multiple agencies, including the Police, the Church, the local stores, the Military, the village youth, and other agencies to help reduce the incidents.