

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – UPPER MEON VALLEY WARD

Updated, Parish update for March 2026

Moodys Meadow, Petersfield Road, Bramdean Appeal Decisions and Enforcement Position

Appeal A: APP/Y9507/W/24/3346589

Appeal B: APP/Y9507/C/24/3346595

This note summarises the outcomes of two linked planning appeals relating to the residential use of land at Moodys Meadow, Bramdean, and explains the enforcement position following the Inspector's decisions. The parishes of Bramdean and Cheriton are more familiar with this case but we thought it was worth sharing across the ward. The full decision can be found on the following link but below is a summary.

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3346595>

Summary of Appeal A – Planning Application

The appellant sought retrospective planning permission to live on the land. The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal.

The Inspector concluded that:

- The residential use causes significant harm to the landscape and rural character of the South Downs National Park.
- The development conflicts with planning policies that protect the countryside.
- Granting permission, either permanently or temporarily, would not be acceptable due to the level of harm.
- The personal circumstances of the appellant and their family were considered but did not outweigh the identified planning harm.

Outcome: Planning permission refused.

Summary of Appeal B – Enforcement Notice

The enforcement notice requires the residential use to cease and associated structures to be removed. The appellant appealed on the basis that more time was needed to comply.

The Inspector acknowledged the family's circumstances, including the potential difficulty in finding alternative accommodation. However, the Inspector determined that a **12-month compliance period** provides a fair balance between:

- Allowing children to complete the school year
- Providing time to seek alternative accommodation
- Ensuring the planning harm is addressed
- Maintaining confidence in the planning system

Outcome: Enforcement notice upheld with a 12-month compliance period.

Enforcement After the 12-Month Period

Once the 12-month period has expired, the appellant must have ceased the residential use and removed all items required by the notice. If they do not comply, the local planning authority may take the following actions:

- **Prosecution:**
Non-compliance is a criminal offence. The council may prosecute in the Magistrates' Court, where fines can be imposed. Additional daily fines may apply if the breach continues.
- **Direct Action:**
The council may enter the land and carry out the required works itself, including removing caravans or structures. The full cost is recoverable from the landowner and may be secured as a legal charge against the land.
- **High Court Injunction:**
If non-compliance persists, the council may seek an injunction. Breaching an injunction is contempt of court and can result in substantial fines or, in serious cases, imprisonment.

The enforcement notice remains in force until fully complied with. The absence of an alternative site does not prevent enforcement.

Summary

Both appeals have been dismissed. The residential use at Moodys Meadow must cease, and the land must be restored within 12 months of the enforcement notice taking effect. If the appellant does not comply, the council has strong legal powers to ensure the notice is enforced.

This case is one that we will continue to monitor and press for action that will fulfil the requirements of the decision but as you can see the legal process is nothing short of a quagmire that totally depends on how difficult the appellant chooses to make it.

As we find out more, we will keep you posted but be aware that 12 months is probably the shortest time this will take and how long is anyone's guess.

Elections and postal votes

As you are all now probably aware the elections for Hampshire county council and for Winchester city council will take place on the 7th May 2026. We would like to remind residents that the way you apply for a postal vote has changed. Voters must now renew their postal votes every three years.

In England, any domestic elector with a postal vote **granted on or before 30 January 2024** must reapply.

Winchester have been contacting all affected postal voters to ask them to re-apply for their postal vote as soon as possible.

The quickest and easiest way to renew is to apply for a postal vote online. Neil has just done it, and it takes 10mins and is much easier if you can do so on your phone, as uploading a picture of your signature is simpler. What you will need before you start is:

- the address where you are registered to vote;
- your National Insurance number or other identity documents, for example a passport;
- the specific date of the election you want to make a postal vote, if you only want a one-off postal vote otherwise, tick up to 3 year maximum, and
- you'll also need to upload a photo of your handwritten signature in black ink on plain white paper.

If you cannot provide a signature or one that always looks the same, you may be able to apply for a postal vote signature waiver within the service.

You might be asked for extra documents to identify you. On this occasion it wasn't required and was very straight forward. Any problem with your application could take 10 days or slightly more. You have up until 17.00, 11 **working days** before the election to apply for a postal vote and so it would be unwise to leave it until on or near the final date for an application as the timeframe could be too tight to resolve any issue.

Here is the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

A272 Road Closure 9th Marh 2026 for 5 nights

As part of Hampshire County Council's annual Planned Maintenance programme, we were advised that Hampshire Highways will be undertaking pre-surface treatment works along A272 Petersfield Road, West Meon from Tithelands Lane to A32.

These works are currently programmed to start on 09th March 2026 and are expected to take up to 5 nights to complete. During this time the road will be closed from approximately 19:00 – 06:00hrs but will be open outside of these hours. Vehicular access for residents and businesses will only be maintained if safe to do so during the works. Pedestrian access to properties will not be affected, and emergency vehicles will have access at all times.

Whilst there is an allowance within the time periods shown above for delays, there may be times when works have to be postponed at very short notice; based on the latest weather forecasts, this can occur just prior to works commencing. Any significant changes to the scheduled dates will be made clear on the yellow sign boards located at the works limits.

Kind Regards

Jerry Pett
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Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley