

Commons Act 2006 – Sections 15(1) and (2)

Applications to Register Land as Town or Village Green – Southwick Court Fields, Southwick and North Bradley

Appendix 13 – Summary of Witness Evidence

	Name	Locality	Petition 1	Petition 2	Years used / known	How used	Events	As of right	Comments
1	P Elphick	Sandringham Rd Trowbridge	✓		Lived here since 1973	Use the fields proposed for development and beyond that for recreational purposes. We are 2 of many who walk the area – to keep us fit and mentally refreshing and invigorating.			Part of our garden adjoins brook which forms Trowbridge boundary. So many others including dog walkers would gain from village green status, giving all residents within the boundary a sizeable area protected from future development. Benefits for young and old.
2	S Elphick	Sandringham Rd Trowbridge	✓		As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)			As above (joint e-mail)
3	S Willcox	Sandringham Rd	✓	✓	Lived in Southwick 1977 – 1997, North Bradley until 2016, then current address. (Petition 2 – 35 yrs)	Throughout this time regularly walked around and across the area with our children and dog. Also used for exercise and recreational purposes.	We have organised community walks through the fields.	Use without let or hindrance.	

						Provided social contact with other residents enjoying the open space and ability to forage for wild food and observe wildlife.			
4	P Willcox	Sandringham Rd	✓	✓	As above (joint e-mail) (Petition 2 – 35 yrs)	As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)	
5	K Brown	Sandringham Rd	✓						
6	M Brown	Sandringham Rd	✓						
7	G Bruce	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓						
8	M Bruce	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓						
9	M Hughes	Holyrood Close Trowbridge	✓						
10	J Law	Westmead Crescent Trowbridge	✓						
11	C Mitchell-Tibbert	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓						
12	R G Tibbert	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓						
13	L White	Holyrood Close, Trowbridge		✓	51 yrs				
14	R Brice	Church Fields, Trowbridge		✓	50 yrs				
15	B Goodship	Sandringham		✓	49 yrs				

		Road, Trowbridge							
16	S White	Holyrood Close, Trowbridge		✓	44 yrs				
17	E Stevens	Spring Meadows, Trowbridge		✓	35 yrs				
18	K Brice	Church Fields, Trowbridge		✓	35 yrs				
19	Matthew Stevens	Spring Meadows, Trowbridge		✓	30 yrs				
20	S Walker	The Poplars, Trowbridge		✓	23 yrs				
21	S Hunt	Frome Road, Trowbridge		✓	23 yrs				
22	A Hunt	Frome Road, Trowbridge		✓	21 yrs				
23	H Chamulewicz	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓			Residents of all ages plus those who drive to enjoy walks around the field, with and without dogs. In summer many sit on the grass and soak up surroundings. Fly a kite, throw a ball, a swing attached to a substantial tree was popular this year.			Land immense benefit to hundreds of local people. Benefit to community of exercise and fresh air away from main streets, for physical and mental health.

						Surrounding hedges are a mass of blackberry bushes, I pick large quantity each year, which I have enjoyed doing since childhood. Sloes in hedgerows.			
24	M Dennis	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓		Lived in area for 10 yrs	Many walks – dog walking and walking for fitness and to just enjoy peace and tranquility of countryside without traffic. I have enjoyed observing and listening to nature which helps me relax.			
25	J Askins	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓						
26	J Dennis	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓		Many years	Used to walk the dog. After dog just walking and enjoying fresh air. Walk for health, mental and physical – throughout lockdowns this			

						area was a lifesaver. Picked elder flowers to make cordial and local blackberries for puddings and pies – no traffic pollution. Meeting and chatting to other people from the local area.			
27	M Roberts	Boundary Walk Trowbridge	✓						
28	G Hill	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓		As resident - 18 yrs	Regular & constant use by residents and visitors who walk or drive to Westfield Crescent, Sandringham & Balmoral Rd's and walk from there. Both my children and grandchildren played in the field. Observed use for the activities contained within this document (application and petition).		Land descriptions and definitions from WC documents – majority of these refer to land as having amenity value, its place in the landscape and value to the community or repeated definition as “informal recreational land” – documents scrutinised by WHSAP Inspection, including WHSAP Sustainability Appraisal Report,	Trowbridge Town Councillor – Grove Ward. As resident never canvassed or made aware of other resident being canvassed in respect of their desires for or use of this land – breach of County Policy and renders any data presented in objection to this application by official bodies null and void. Conversations with residents – desire for TVG and its recent move into Trowbridge Community Area is evidence that this is wish of Town Council and also County Council. Application is the will of the residents. Planning consultation sites in North Bradley and planning

								<p>all available to landowner and Agent/Advisors, no challenge to this repeated description as informal recreation land. Conclusion that there is now tacit approval of the land being in the public realm. Presumed acceptance in last 2 years – sections of fence removed to facilitate access for the general public along the notified footpaths and gates previously used to retain cattle being left open or removed – desire to give unrestricted access to the land by the landowner.</p>	<p>applications at Elm Grove, Church Lane, all included within the Examination of the HSAP. Strategic Plan – rejects further development on southern fringes of Trowbridge. Designating this portion of the buffer between Trowbridge and the villages of North Bradley and Southwick is greater protection in law to support this policy. Core policy 29 – requires maintenance of buffer Trowbridge and villages of North Bradley and Southwick to enable them to retain unique identity. Position of VG assists in ensuring continues existence of the buffer. Support for 5 yr HLS – WC has shortfall in housing land to satisfy government requirements, designation safeguards greenfield site.</p>
29	C Hill	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓		19 years	My family have enjoyed exploring this wonderful landscape. Children and grandchildren			<p>Village Green would ensure boundary between Trowbridge and Southwick is preserved in perpetuity. Much loved and valued green space preserved for future generations.</p>

					<p>spent many hrs picking blackberries and sloes from hedgerows and identifying birds and habitats. Daily walks throughout year – learning about countryside, a valuable education and many family adventures. Flora & fauna constant source of joy – watching and documenting the changing seasons has been inspiration for hrs spent drawing, painting and crafting. Opportunity to spend extended periods of time in the fresh air. Covid restrictions - opportunity to explore green landscape has had positive impact on my family's life and</p>			
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						those of our local community.			
30	L J Law	Westmead Crescent	✓						
31	G Whiffen	Holyrood Close Trowbridge	✓	✓	25 years (Petition 2 – 26 yrs)	My wife and I exercising dogs in the area for over 25 years, as well as using the area for recreational and health purposes. Utilising area for the benefit of our 4 grandchildren for the last 10 years – instilling in them the pleasure and health benefits of clean open air; how important it is to manage the countryside and utilise the fruits such as blackberries and sloes from hedgerows and also damsons from Axe and Cleaver Lane.			
32	M Whiffen	Holyrood Close Trowbridge	✓	✓	As above (joint e-mail) (Petition 2 – 26	As above (joint e-mail)			

					yrs)				
33	N M Swanney	Balmoral Rd Trowbridge	✓	✓	Lived in area for more than 38 years. (Petition 2 – 38 yrs)	Attest to regular and constant use of the land by local residents and a large number of visitors who either walk or drive to Westfield Crescent, Sandringham Rd or Balmoral Rd and enter the fields from there. Our children and grandchildren have played in the field. We have observed it in use for a wide variety of activities including: Walking Jogging Dog walking Blackberry picking Bird watching Model plane flying Drone flying Hot air balloon landing.		The landowner has allowed us access to these fields without stay or impediment over all this time.	

						We have used the fields for more than 38 years.			
34	A L Swanney	Balmoral Rd, Trowbridge		✓	As above (joint letter) (Petition 2 – 38 yrs)	As above (joint letter)		As above (joint letter)	
35	P Allsop	Spring Meadows			Resident Summerdown Walk 1980's Currently living in Spring Meadows	In the 1980's and for last 7 yrs walked dogs nearly every day on permitted footpaths through fields around Boundary Walk, Southwick Court and through to Southwick. Vital during covid lockdown as allowed me to get exercise without driving to another location with dogs. My wife and I picked blackberries for pies and sloes for gin from hedgerows on many occasions.		Landowner fully aware of my activities and has allowed this without stay or impediment, on occasion spoken to him whilst out walking.	
36	T Allsop	Spring				Walk dogs daily		On occasions had	

		Meadows				on permitted footpaths through fields around Boundary Walk, Southwick Court and beyond. Life saver during covid lockdowns – enabled me to get exercise without need to interact with other or have to go in car to similar area. Made pies and jam from blackberries in hedgerows.		conversations with landowner whilst out walking.	
37	D Goodship	Sandringham Rd, Trowbridge		✓	Live opposite fields for over 45 yrs (Petition 2 – 49 yrs)	Myself and family have used fields for walking, running and picking blackberries. Grandchildren also now enjoy walking fields.		Without “stay or impediment” by landowner.	
38	R Hunt	Frome Road, Trowbridge		✓	Since moved to Trowbridge in 1999. (Petition 2 – 23 yrs)	I and my family have used these fields daily for last 22 years, valuable source of exercise for us		Fields available for walking without stay or impediment for as long and I have lived here.	

						all. Annually foraged for blackberries and elderflowers, using the products to make cordials, crumbles and jams.			
39	B Jones	Summerdown Walk, Trowbridge			Used for best part of 40 years, since I first moved to this part of Trowbridge.	Dog walking, general exercise for well being purposes, picking wild fruit, blackberries etc. and being able to observe wildlife.		Used without let or hindrance.	
40	J Keltie	Westmead Crescent, Trowbridge			We have lived here since 1987 – used for 34 years	Used land on daily basis for last 34 years – walking, dog walking, general exercise and enjoyment. Picked blackberries, sloes and damsons when in season from hedgerows. Wellbeing.		Use without let or hindrance.	Want to continue to enjoy access.
41	B Keltie	As above (joint e-mail)			As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)		As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)

42	North Bradley Parish Council								Councillors resolved to support this application.
43	M Noutch	Boundary Walk, Trowbridge			Moved here in 1987	Recreation. Especially good during lockdown for my physical and mental well-being.			
44	M Oliver	Residents of area			Residents for 45 years	Brought up 4 of our children here and made use of the many rights of way for walking, jogging and playing as well as enjoying the pleasures of the green fields, trees and shrubs, picking blackberries and watching wildlife.			Addition of VG with pathways suitable for wheelchairs, mobility vehicles, park benches and picnic tables, will extend these benefits to the elderly and disabled, and probably providing a childrens public playground which is sorely needed by young families in this part of Trowbridge. Part of the green could be fenced off with facilities for dog walkers. The site could be planted with a variety of trees and shrubs to attract birds and smaller animals for habitats and contribute to lowering our local carbon footprint.
45	J Oliver	As above (joint e-mail)			As above (joint e-mail)	As above (joint e-mail)			As above (joint e-mail)
46	Southwick Parish Council								Members resolved to support the application.
47	Mark Stevens	Sandringham Road, Trowbridge		✓	Lived in the area for over 40 yrs	During this time we have regularly		Used without stay or impediment	

					(Petition 2 – 45 yrs)S	walked and exercised in this area with out 2 children and now 5 grandchildren. Annual blackberry picking session continues every year with all of the family. Walks with the youngsters over the years to teach them of the nature and wildlife in the area.			
48	L Stevens	As above (joint email)		✓	As above (joint email) (Petition 2 – 45 yrs)	As above (joint email)		As above (joint email)	
49	Cllr D Vigar								I believe this plan offers the opportunity to provide conclusive protection for a strategic area of recreational land in a context where the ambiguities of planning policy are leading to developments taking place on valuable green spaces. I support the VG proposal: Conformity with legislative criteria – site qualifies for registration, submissions made by local residents are providing the necessary evidence cited in the notice

									<p>of application, demonstrating that the land has been used for recreational and social purposes as of right, without stay or let for a period exceeding 20 years.</p> <p>Alignment with Local Plan – Proposed VG lies next to Southwick Court Fields site – H2.6 in WHSAP. WC current draft Local Plan reiterates objective of retaining undeveloped land on edge of town to act as a green infrastructure corridor and preserve the separate identities of villages such as Southwick. Supports WC Core Policy 29. The VG proposal would help combat the “urbanising effect” of H2.6.</p> <p>Wildlife and heritage protection – Southwick Court contains Medieval moat and farmstead.</p>
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