

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

Application to Register Land as Town or Village Green – Northfield Playing Field, Winsley

Appendix 16 – Witness Evidence – Fencing of Application Land July 2021

Witness	Date of Correspondence	Evidence
J and C Baker	21/12/2021	<i>It is now fenced off and private property signs have been erected. The grass is overgrown...</i>
J Barnes	23/12/2021	<i>Having purchased the land he then proceeded to erect a fence so preventing the community from using a play area to which there had been unfettered access since the 1970's.</i>
M, T, K and D Bartholomew	09/11/2021	<i>We are very upset that the field at the end of Northfield is now (after 60 years plus of use and maintenance) no longer usable.</i>
S and T Bowles	21/12/2021	<i>We cannot understand why the land in question has been fenced off so it cannot continue to be used as a village amenity. We note that the ownership of this piece of land has changed but the new owners appear to have given themselves a right to fence off the land so it cannot be used.</i>
R Burvill	31/01/2022	<i>The loss of this open space for public access is very sad and my children in particular are incredibly sad to have been blocked from our local greenspace.</i>
K and S Cole	29/21/2021	<i>...the area was fenced off and the public barred from the site.</i>
D, J, B and E Forbes	01/12/2021	<i>...the land came into its own for us in March and April 2020 when that first lockdown arrived and our children were able to play there for their hour a day outdoor time on occasion and lots of times since then.</i>
D and S Gosling	13/12/2021	<i>...it is distressing to see that it has already, under new ownership, been fenced around.</i>
B Janes	13/02/2022	<i>Since the owners erected the fence and stopped access to this land we have truly</i>

		<i>missed using this space, it really was a wonderful asset to our village community.</i>
Cllr J Kidney, Wiltshire Councillor for Winsley and Westwood	29/12/2021	<i>The important role that this space has played for the physical and emotional wellbeing of residents across the generations has perhaps been most marked during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The playing field at Northfield was absolutely vital for residents as a space to take daily exercise, providing essential emotional and mental release for children who were experiencing unprecedented disruption to their education and freedom. To be able to use this space as a right and without question, just as previous generations had done, was more important than ever before.</i>
K Ladner	03/12/2021	<i>It is incredible and outrageous that the current owner has fenced off the land, thereby denying access to the children and council owned equipment...</i>
T Lerwill	29/11/2021	<i>It was upsetting and surprising when it has recently been fenced and the goal posts removed.</i>
D & K Morrell	01/12/2021	<i>It was very disappointing for us to see this wonderful recreational facility being fenced off and to witness the impact this had on so many young people who were prohibited from using it...The loss of the field has been acutely felt by so many young people and it was sad for us to witness groups of youngsters walking up our road, footballs tucked under their arms in the innocent expectation of having a good game with their friends, only to be prevented from doing so by a wire fence. The look of disappointment on their faces as they trudged home was very moving.</i>
C & G Pearce	01/12/2021	<i>We have lived in Winsley since March 1990 and as our home in ■ Saxon Way backs on to the play area we are in a very strong position to know who used the field</i>

		<p><i>and how often. I can assure you that in all the time we have lived here the field has been used regularly for many family activities and sports by the people of Winsley. Up until the time the new owners placed fencing around the land it was used on a daily basis. We have missed hearing the joyful sound of children getting exercise and having fun.</i></p> <p><i>In our view, it is such a shame that suddenly after so many years this area is not available for village use at the moment...the one place the children and families of Winsley could use is no longer available.</i></p>
D Rickard	30/12/2021	<p><i>Now the ground is fenced and locked so can't be enjoyed by anyone at a time when any green space for children and adults to enjoy is beneficial to health and wellbeing.</i></p>
P Seeley	15/02/2022	<p><i>You will be aware that Northfield playing field was purchased by two brothers quite some time ago now, and since the purchase, has been locked in order to restrict public use of the field. This is so sad for many reasons...It is so sad that the space, which used to provide such a valuable place to the village as a whole, is now locked up, vacant and not available for anyone to use.</i></p>
I Sparrowhawk	09/12/2021	<p><i>This being the only green space in the Tynning Estate it would be such a shame to lose it to development, or just inaccessible wasteland as it currently stands.</i></p>
J Strike	08/11/2021	<p><i>Myself, my wife and two children live on Northfield, and have used the land a lot prior to the current owners fencing it off... I'd also like to add I think being able to have the land throughout lockdown was crucial to local's physical and mental health, and in the weeks prior to fencing I saw countless families walk to the land with sporting equipment, only to walk home</i></p>

		<i>moments later, not realising it had been sealed off.</i>
J Treble	07/12/2021	<i>Without any doubt this is a space that has been valuable to a very large number or Winsley youngsters and their families over more than 50 years. It has been in use constantly and regularly throughout this period of time, until it was unnecessarily fenced off by the new owners a few months ago.</i>
S Wriges	Undated correspondence (following Form 45 Notice of Application 12 th November 2021)	<i>I was really saddened and disappointed recently to discover that Northfield Playing field was "For Sale" and furthermore that it was 'sold' and fenced off with a padlock on the gate.</i>