

WILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION STATEMENT

Unfortunately, Willington Parish Council has been put into an unwanted position requiring an objection to a Village Green application that has been made on Twyford Road Playing Field.

The implication of a 'Village Green' is not very clear from the wording of the Commons Act 2006, however, what is perfectly clear, is that a Village Green retains its status and restrictions into perpetuity. Therefore, an objection was required to ensure that this and any future Parish Council retains their ability to control and manage the land without undue restrictions.

The following improvements or 'developments' have been recently considered by the Parish Council:

- Provision of new and improved changing rooms and pavilion
- Provision of a larger storage building
- Improvements to car parking
- Play and exercise equipment

Should Twyford Road Playing Field be designated a 'Village Green', then some of the above ideas would be deemed to be 'restrictive works', as such, it may be severely difficult, or even completely impossible to accomplish. At the very least, permission will need to be granted from the Secretary of State.

Furthermore, should the land be granted Village Green Status, then it will confer anyone a right to undertake any lawful sport or pastime on the land. Thus, the following organised official activities will be put into severe jeopardy exclusive use of the field, or part thereof, could not be granted for the following:

- Official football matches and training sessions
- Firework displays
- Summer Sportsmobile activities
- Carnivals

A Village Green Application is made upon the basis of several pre-requisites, one of which is the use of the land by the inhabitants of a locality. This may result in persons living outside of the parish of Willington not being permitted to use the land. Obviously, this will be devastating for away teams wishing to play football.

The boundary contained within the Village Green application included the car park area, however, parking on a Village Green is an offence if it damages the Green or stops people's recreation or exercise. Therefore, should the application be accepted, then the car park may have to be closed to ensure compliance with this restriction.

The application is currently being considered by Derbyshire County Council. Should you wish to object to the application, the address is as follows:

Director of Legal Services
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG
Reference: VG118