

RESPONSE 1

We have lived in Detillens Lane for 34 years and brought up our children there, who no longer live with us, who together with me have very fond memories of the Glebe Field.

In their childhood they used to enjoy running freely through the fields, which to them seemed like open countryside, with a little river running through it. It was a safe environment, as it still is, where you could encourage children to use their imagination in the open countryside and teach them about how a river is formed , a relatively short distance away. How it flowed slowly down to the sea etc. Wild flowers were pointed out and of course at this time of year blackberries were picked.

From where we lived it was also a quiet walk through to Oxted, where I would take the two girls every Saturday for a "walk with Dad". During that walk you could compare the state of the trees, and flora generally, with that of the previous week, depending upon the seasons. It was also quiet and therefore one could hold a conversation, as opposed to both the sound and traffic pollution of the A25, which prevented an uninterrupted conversation. My wife and I still use it for the same purpose.

I know it has been said before but I do believe it to be the lung of Limpsfield. With the inexorable increase in road traffic in the area I believe that to have the benefit of such a "Green Space", is something that needs to be treasured and preserved. I liken The Glebe Fields to the parks in London, which were preserved for the same reason I believe we should here, ie to avoid every pocket being developed.

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RESPONSE 3

You asked about my view with regard to the above area. In short, in a world full of stress the ability to access a tranquil open space is essential for the health of a community. I place great value on the time spent walking in the fields and the ability to enjoy a period of quiet contemplation.

I do not have an specific evidence beyond my observations given here.

RESPONSE 4

We moved here in April 1971 and have always looked upon the Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow as the feature that separated Limpsfield from Oxted.

We cannot recollect any photographs to prove our attachment to these features of the landscape but we have the fondest recollections of taking our young children there for games and blackberry collecting. And our dog went there for his walk every day.

As a commuter I would walk to Oxted Station in the morning along the A 25 but in the evening I would walk home across the fields from Granville Road. The bullocks were no hazard – just adding a bit of country colour! We also encouraged our houseguests to go 'via the fields' to Oxted.

And when my wife walks into Oxted she prefers to go across the fields if it is not too muddy!.

Hope this is helpful!

RESPONSE 5

Dear Martin

I would like to let you know that my family and I make regular use of Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow and enjoy frequent walks on this land. It is easily accessible from my house and it makes an enjoyable open space for me, my husband and our two small boys to use. We are relatively new to the area and hope that it is a space that we can continue to enjoy for many years to come.

Kind regards

RESPONSE 6

Dear Martin

X and I are grateful to you for taking on this very important task. Below are some stories that might help. You should feel free to use these along with the photos.

We moved here Lane in 1995 when our children were 1 and 4 years old. We wanted to live in the area and envisaged having dogs as the kids grew older. Having looked around Oxted and Limpsfield we found ourselves drawn to our road as it had easy access to the very special Glebe Fields. Our kids grew up here and whilst they now live in London, they return home every month or so to enjoy the fields and walk the remaining dog. To all our Family, including the older generation who have now passed on, the Fields will always be a very special place having provided so many wonderful memories.

Enjoying the natural field (livestock and wildlife) and the mown field (football area)

Having both mown and un-mown space lent itself to fun, freedom and learning across all ages- from our picnicking with our toddler, her learning to run; younger children having first go at scooting scooters, flying kites (1997 photo Glebe kite) and riding bikes (plus the other activities listed below), through to walking with their grandpa's as their physical and mental capabilities reduced

Party Games

Between the ages of 4 and 12 our children were able to celebrate their birthdays at home and typically invited up to 20 friends and family including aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins to join in the fun and sandwiches. Our garden was the starting point, and as the kids became more boisterous we would all retreat to the fields to let them run off some steam. Visitors to the fields included the children, often entertained by a "Smarty Arty" and then collected by their parents. The entertainer and the visiting parents used to remark on how fortunate we were to live in such a pretty place with easy access to safe and natural play areas.

Running Races and Rounders and other “sport”

From ages 10-16 the frequency of parties increased. We celebrated birthdays and as we formed a close knit group of friends with kids of similar ages, we would host BBQ's in the garden and then hold running races and games of rounders on the fields. We were often joined by Detillens Lane neighbours on further weekends looking for an opportunity to have fun and encourage our children to enjoy each other's company and use of the outdoors. Messing around with footballs, rugby balls and Frisbees kept local and distant friends and family across generations entertained- whatever the weather!

Blackberry Picking

As I write this contribution, it is plain to see how many people are enjoying Blackberry picking in the Glebe Fields. I go to the fields on average about 4 times a day and would estimate therefore that literally dozens of near neighbours visit the fields each day to pick the abundant blackberries. Visitors from further afield make their own “blackberry pilgrimages” to the Glebe. We all have fond childhood memories of our own picking, eating and/or cooking blackberries with our grandparents. Our children did the same on the Glebe Fields with their Grandparents and this great tradition carries on despite all the distractions of modern electronic devices. Other fruits are available- sloes for jelly and gin!

Learning to live with Cows, Horses and the natural inhabitants

Understandably, children, and indeed many adults, find their first few encounters with large livestock to be somewhat nerve wracking. At various times of year, Cows and Horses can be found in the fields and learning to stay calm and admire the qualities of these animals as you walk through or round them is of long lasting benefit. Our family have been able to guide nervous walkers through the fields on many occasions and all have benefitted from this experience.

For those who walk and admire the fields early in the morning or from dusk to dark, they will see all manner of wildlife. Migrating birds, local ducks and geese in flight, pheasants on the run from Titsey, Heron, Deer, foxes and Badgers. This is a fantastic learning environment for developing children and providing pleasure for all those who appreciate the wonders of nature and wildlife.

Getting stuck in the mud

As we all know, the River Eden runs through the lower field. By the forming oxbow lake, what a great place to see geography lessons in action(!), collect frogspawn and watch it develop, learn how to play safely in the water, how to get stuck in the mud and extricate oneself, or occasionally to fall flat on your back and receive the appropriate reprimand on return home. This particular part of the fields also possess great slopes for when the snow falls – an ideal tobogganing location.

Higher up the stream, swinging ropes challenged bravery, developed strength and coordination, and provided opportunities to meet other youngsters.

Walking the dogs

Our 23 years in Limpsfield have been made all the more special by having two dogs and enjoying walking them round into every corner of the Glebe Fields. This is great exercise and provides exceptional pleasure day and night. This country needs a healthier population and retention of the fields in the midst of our community will continue to contribute toward this essential objective.

We hope you find our recollections and photos useful, and that they help build a case for designating Glebe as special and a Local Green Space for future generations.

Regards

RESPONSE 7

Dear Mr Hogbin,

Thankyou for your note. I have copied my reply to both the Chairman, and clerk of Limpsfield Parish council.

We have lived in Detillens lane, backing on to the Glebe field, for 34 years. These fields are very special to us. We have walked, and taken our children, around and across the Glebe field and meadow since our children were young. We now take grandchildren out to the Glebe field and meadow, to enjoy the open space, and paddle in the river Eden. The field serves both Limpsfield and Oxted, and is an essential open space.

RESPONSE 8

Please give me your thoughts and memories of the Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow (the football pitch)

As you may be aware, Limsfield Parish Council will be submitting its proposed Neighbourhood Plan to Tandridge District Council, who will consult on it and then send it on to a government inspector for approval. The Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow will be proposed for consideration as Local Green Spaces. If this designation is agreed, these areas have a similar level of protection to Green Belt land.

One of the criteria that the government examiner will use in making their decision is whether the proposed space is, 'demonstrably special to the local community'.

I am therefore very interested in getting your opinion and thoughts on whether these fields are special in any way to you or a member of your household or not, supported, as far as you can with evidence. Evidence can take any form including letters, emails, notes of personal memories, photographs and newspaper cuttings. I need your replies as soon as possible as the plan needs to be submitted by the end of August.

Please send your thoughts to Martin Hogbin - Limsfield Parish Councillor

3 Detillens Lane, Limsfield, RH8 0DH.

Martin002@hogbin.org

01883 715828

07776 136357

- Walked with the children & played there
- Love the silence and nature - especially as we are getting so built up
- Country short cut to town so as not to have to walk the road + pollution
- Fun of the stream - especially with children

RESPONSE 9

Dear Martin,

Thank you for the note you put through our door regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and the Glebe Field.

Having lived in here for 30 years the Glebe Fields and Glebe Meadow have been a very special part of our lives. We used it on a daily basis to walk our dog when we had one. When my children were young they often played there, making boats for the stream and enjoying the space. My son played for Limpsfield Blues so enjoyed the use of the football pitch but before then both boys would often go and kick a ball about on the pitch. (Much to the annoyance of the groundsman!).

It's a beautiful area and has wonderful wildlife including kingfishers and tawny owls. Starlings and song thrushes all breed, winter thrushes, Fieldfares and Redwings use the area. There are passage migrants too such as Green Sandpiper and Yellow Wagtail. The fact that the stream flows through makes it very special and important.

I can only make comments on the area, unfortunately I don't really have any evidence to back it up, I haven't been able find a photograph or anything.

I don't know whether comments are sufficient in themselves, but wanted let you know my thoughts and say I appreciate the work you are doing on this matter.

Kind regards,

RESPONSE 10

GLEBE FIELDS , LIMPSFIELD

We moved here in 1975, over 40 years ago. Our property has a short garden and backs directly onto the Glebe Fields. The Glebe Fields in turn adjoin The Brooks Field, known locally as "The Bogs" because of its marshy terrain. The Glebe is crossed transversely by Public Footpath 78, which then crosses the stream, and runs alongside The Brooks field to Granville Road. A stream, The River Eden runs through the Brooks Field .

Throughout our time here. The Glebe and Brooks Fields have been of vital importance to us and our family. Although we appreciate that they are technically on private land, our family and indeed everyone locally have enjoyed the use of the land both for nature and dog walking. Our family, and indeed , we believe, most householders on our side of the road, have long established our own paths to the public footpath and have greatly appreciated the opportunities we have been given to observe nature in all its forms. We vividly recollect our daughter's excitement. on seeing a kingfisher at close quarters, and the stream and surrounds have harboured fresh water shrimps, small fish, and, in season, a seething cauldron of breeding frogs!

Wild flowers abound, and memorable for us is the year when marsh marigolds blossomed all over "The bogs"; a stunning sight. The Glebe and Brooks are divided by a belt of trees and bushes, including Hawthorn and Elderflower, interspersed by more mature trees such as oak and ash.

Wild creatures such as rabbits and foxes have all been observed and most nights we can hear owls hunting.

The part of The Glebe which we have always called "The football field" and which is now called Glebe Meadow, has been of vital importance for recreation for as long as we can remember. Until very recently it was used by the Limpsfield Blues Football Club, but when not being used by them, it was used by the local population for sports days, fetes and many other such activities. Now of course it is leased by St Peter's Church and will continue to be used for recreation.

The view across from our houses towards the North Downs is beautiful, and although we appreciate that we do not have a right to a view, it does make it a very special place to live.

We appreciate that we could be accused of "nimbyism", but we have lived here long enough to know what a very special place the Fields are not only to us, but to all the local population. Angela was a parish Councillor for well over 30 years and is therefore in a good position to know how the Fields are viewed by Limpsfield Parishioners. They are a vital division between the parishes of Limpsfield and Oxted, and indeed have long been referred to as "The Lungs of Limpsfield". They have been in existence for many hundreds of years,

RESPONSE 11

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your note re the above.

I have lived in the area for the last 45 years. I played down by the stream as a child. I am afraid I do not have specific photos but I do view the Glebe and the Titsey Estate field as strategic land in that very importantly they serve to separate Oxted and Limpsfield - (primarily green belt and conservation area).

I regularly use the land as a recreational walk to Oxted and to walk my brothers dog. The fact that the land is used to graze cattle also demonstrates that it is viable agricultural land, probably supporting a whole host of plants and wild life.

Best wishes

RESPONSE !2

Dear Martin Hogbin,

Thank you for your most welcome letter about the Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow.

In any well-balanced neighbourhood, especially one that is near a motorway, it is environmentally important and healthy in many ways for people to have green spaces to explore, to dog-walk, to play games in fresh air and to meet each other.

We came to Limpsfield in 1976 from the Netherlands and were very happy for our very energetic sons to play football and do cross-country running "up the Downs". In the Netherlands the countryside is very precious to people and when a housing estate is built a large green space is left for recreational purposes.

We are very fortunate to have the Glebe Field and Meadow and have seen families benefiting from the lovely spaces there. If these spaces were to be developed so much of the character of this most beautiful part of Surrey would be lost to the community and future generations.

So I believe most strongly that these spaces should be designated as Local Green Spaces and preserved for the future.

RESPONSE !3

Thanks Martin for letter re the Glebe. Sorry for late reply but have been away. Our thoughts on the Field and meadow. Having lived in detillens for 30 yrs we have many fond memories of hours of fun with the children, family and friends dog walking, playing pooh sticks, watching the tadpoles and hoping the heron doesn't get them!learning about the great outdoor life. Being able to walk to Oxted without going along the A25 for old and young, picking the blackberries and sloes, watching the ever growing bird life, cattle grazing and how the meadow is now full of wild flowers. Great amenities for both oxted and limpsfield and a great play area for the increasing number of young families as there is only Master Park. Just lovely to know Limpsfield and Oxted are still almost in the countryside despite being squashed between theM25 and A25. Hope this helps.

RESPONSE !4 (see overleaf)

Glebe Field and Glebe Meadow

We have lived at 25 Detillens Lane since 1975, backing on to the Glebe Field, and have made extensive use of these facilities which are a key feature of the area. They are used by many local residents for dog walking, kite flying, blackberrying, picnics and ball games. Glebe Meadow was used as a football pitch for many years and is now used on a regular basis for football training. It is also used for parties and wedding receptions with the appropriate marquees, as well as the local village fete.

On a personal level, we regularly walk across the field to Oxted and I walked to the station every day. We walk our dog on a daily basis across both fields, as do dozens of other people. The children were always playing in the field and we attach photos of them in 1977 and 1978, playing on hay bales and tobogganing. There is also a more recent photo (2007) of the grandchildren with the cows.

It is essential that these fields are maintained for use by the local community, otherwise the whole character of the area will change for the worse.

David & Sheila Steele
24/08/18

*I consent to this information and the photographs
being used in support of the neighbourhood plan.*

Steele 24/8/18

DAVID STEELE

