



Full Council Meeting – 24th March 2022

Agenda Item CC2289/22

Croxley Green Land Transfer

Introduction

Since 2012 our Parish Council has had the intention to seek the transfer of land from Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) to our ownership or control. Despite meetings with TRDC, no progress has been made.

It is our position that this is an anomaly and that, as such, it should be corrected.

We want to agree that this is a priority for the Parish to finally have full control over land that would normally be owned by a Parish Council. This will be led by the LEE committee.

Discussion

The Green, Stone's Orchard and the Allotments, along with all other public land in Croxley Green were placed into TRDC in the 1974 reorganisation of local government. The Parish Council was founded in 1986, and no land was transferred to the new Parish.

Since 2013 various attempts have been made by the parish council to seek a transfer of The Green and Stone's Orchard but the district councillors failed to offer support and the matter has, essentially, been put on ice by the district. The last meeting held with an officer was in late 2018, when we were told there was not member support for any transfers.

Also, in early 2019, the solicitor to TRDC refused to accept the allotments should be transferred on the somewhat questionable grounds that although they have been in use for many years as allotments, the land was not originally acquired for those purposes. The solicitor added that the council's view was that the lands were transferred as public open space and for recreational purposes.

The Parish Council maintains The Green and Stone's Orchard to the standards expected by residents at its own cost, but perversely is required to pay the district council whenever we want to put on an event.

Now we want to reinvigorate the effort to achieve a transfer of The Green, Stone's Orchard and the allotments which should be made at a notional cost. It is time to finally put this issue right.

Recommendations

1. That making progress on this issue be assigned to the Leisure, Events and Environment committee
2. That the chair of the LEE committee and members set up a meeting with the officers in TRDC to discuss this issue again
3. That LEE reports to Council on any progress made, or lack thereof.

Cllrs David Montague and Chris Mitchell
18th March 2022