

## How to Support the Re-opening of Gledhow Field

We, the Friends of Gledhow Field, believe, and have always believed that a compromise to share or split the land is the best answer for both the school and the local community. However, the council has so far been unwilling to compromise and whilst we continue to try to find a solution that suits everyone, Town Green status, (formerly 'Common Land'), has been applied for which, if successful, would reopen the field to full public access.

To help with this process we are asking members of the local community to support the application by writing statements about their use of the field. We have to get the statements in to the Council before the 12<sup>th</sup> of May and would like to collect them before this, ideally by the 5<sup>th</sup> May. We have put together the following to help you with your statement. It may look a little daunting but it is actually pretty straight forward!

### *A couple of important bits to think about first...*

- The statement will be public and will be available to all to read.
- The statement must be honest and accurate. I've given some examples of how it applies to me, yours might be different.
- The statement counts no matter how long you have used the field for.
- The statement still counts if you have used the field in the past but no longer use it.
- You must have lived or worked within the boundary of the application, currently Gledhow, at the time you used the field.
- We are also looking for photographs of people using the field. We just need a copy, we can scan them and give them back, (Photos are not essential, most won't be able to supply them don't let this put you off!)

### *How to write it and what to include...*

- The lay out of your statement does not matter but most people will do it in the style of an ordinary letter, (start with 'Dear Sir/Madam' and finish with 'Yours faithfully' and your signature).
- Statements can be hand written or typed and printed off but they **MUST** be signed even if they are typed.
- Include your current address and the date that you are writing the statement at the top.
- The following reference number should be quoted at the top of your letter. **A76/JLA/G217**
- If you used to live in the area when you used the field but no longer live here, please include the address you lived at when you were in the area as well as your current address.
- Say how often you used the field. For me, for example, this would be 2 or 3 three times a day and 5 or 6 days a week.
- Say how long you used the field – from what year you started using it to what year you stopped, (This may be when the fence went up in August 2015). You might not remember the exact year, don't worry a rough idea is fine but try to be as accurate as possible. For me, for example, this would be from 2011 to when the fence closed the field, so about 5 years.

- Say what you used the field for. This can be any sport or recreational purpose, it doesn't have to be organised sport – it could be just a kickaround for example, (see other examples at the end of this document). For me, for example, this would be walking, dog walking and playing with the grandchildren as well as chatting to other dog walkers.
- Describe what you saw when using the field - were other people using it? What do they use it for? If you used it regularly, did you make friends with other users? For me, for example, this would be: I regularly saw and chatted to other people walking dogs, children playing, people socialising, people simply sitting and enjoying the peace and quiet.
- To meet with the guidelines of the Town Green Application, you must have used the land 'unimpeded' (i.e. nobody stopped you!). If this is the case, say that there was nothing to stop you getting on to the land and that when you were on the land, nobody ever asked you to leave.
- This will not apply to all of you, but if you were using the field 20 or more years ago, (any time before 1996), we are particularly interested in this period so, if possible, please add as much detail as you can, no matter how unimportant it sounds. For example if you are able to pin down any specific events at this time, you can mention them – England won the Ashes in 1993, did that encourage you or your kids to go out and play cricket on the field? Or were you inspired to kick a ball around on the field when Brazil won the world cup in 94. England won the Five Nations and Europe won the Ryder Cup in 95, did you then rush out to practice your swing or your kicking? Or perhaps your first child/grandchild was born around that time and you have a specific memory of using the field for their very first kickaround in the mid 1990's. Did you adopt your beloved old dog around then and took him for his first walkies on the field? **(This level of detail is not essential but it would be useful if anyone is able to recall that far back).**
- **Don't say you used it as a shortcut or path to the shops or bus stops.** This doesn't matter to the Town Green application and might just confuse things, (using the land as a short cut or a path would make it a 'right of way' rather than a 'Town Green' which would not help to reopen the land).
- The statement should contain the words, *'I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information I have given in this statement is true.'*

### **Common things that you might have used the land for...**

- Football, rounders, cricket, rugby or any other sport, (formal or informal)
- Children playing
- Riding bikes
- Picnicking
- Exercising
- Walking the dog
- Wandering/Going for a walk
- Sketching, drawing and painting
- Sitting and enjoying the peace and quiet
- Watching bats (yes, I've done that)
- Other aspects of nature, (birds, wild flowers, foxes etc can all be seen on the field)

- Reading
- Meeting friends and socialising
- Community activities – for example litter picking
- Anything else, it all counts

### ***What to do with your statement...***

If you are in any way unsure about what to write or how to write it, please contact us and we will help you.

Once it is written, please let us know, we will collect your statements from you and will then hand deliver them to the council.

### ***Our Contact Details...***

Email: [info@friendsofgledhowfield.org](mailto:info@friendsofgledhowfield.org)

Phone: 07783 800036

### ***If you want to know more...***

Find out about our survey, petition, aims and objectives on our website [www.friendsofgledhowfield.org](http://www.friendsofgledhowfield.org)

### ***And finally....***

A big thank you for your support! Whether you signed our petition, filled in the survey, helped to spread the word or are writing a statement, it all helps. Thank You!!!

**Paul Sellars  
Chair, The Friends of Gledhow Field**