

# BROXHEAD COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 6th June, 1968)

Chairman: J. H. ELLIS, Headley Mill, Bordon, Hants

7 Dec '73

Dear *Mr. J. H. Ellis*,

The successful stand by our Association in conjunction with the Headley Parish Council and the Hampshire County Council in preserving most of Broxhead Common to date, is constantly having to be watched, and I am daily in touch with those concerned.

The owner of the eastern side in the Parish of Headley is trying desperately to influence some of the Commoners to change their minds with an offer of a piece of Common land for a Football Field, and has been instrumental in setting up a "Working Party". This is not repeat not part of our Association and is acting against our aims and the long term interests of the local people. This premature offer of course could be interesting, were it not for the conditions attached, which have now at last been officially made known to me. They are in short:.

- A. The Commoners to give up their Rights.
- B. The whole of the Common, except a narrow strip, to be allowed to be fenced in with Barbed Wire.
- C. That it be allowed to extend the illegal fences, enclosing about 85 acres of Common, to take in a further 100 acres
- D. That all the gorse, heather, trees, wild life and flowers will be destroyed to make way for Agricultural Development.

WE CANNOT AGREE TO SUCH CONDITIONS

My advice to the Commoners is to stand firmly behind the Association's activities, and sign nothing without first getting legal advice.

Our case is very strong and is to be heard in the near future, probably in April next. The cost, if any, will be born by the Association Funds - not by the individual Commoner, and we've already had some very generous offers of support.

Basically, what we have to do, is to prepare a case to prove:-

- 1. That Broxhead Common is Common Land.
- 2. That there are Rights of Common over it.

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Once we have proved these two points, the benefits can be:-

- (i) The whole of Broxhead Common - 404 acres, will be open Common Land, and unfenced for all time.
- (ii) The public will almost certainly have legal access to the whole Common, as with Metropolitan Commons.
- (iii) The Commoners, Local organisations, Parish Councils, and owners of Commons expect to form Committees to manage the Commons for the mutual benefit of all.
- (iv) Public authorities and Playfield Organisations are expected to make funds available for opening up parts of the Commons near villages and towns for leisure purposes.

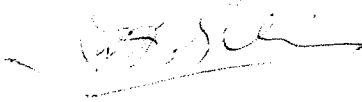
These then are some of the prizes envisaged if we can prove the above-mentioned points, but we must stand firmly together and not be influenced by dubious schemes devised for selfish ends, that will only give pleasure to a minority.

You are one of the last of a long line of Commoners, and as a Registered Commoner you hold in your hand an ace which I submit you are duty bound to play wisely, not only for yourself, but for those future generations who will be dependant for their countryside on the stand you are prepared to make at this enquiry

And finally, remember we are fighting not only for Common Rights, but for a principle and a heritage, and personalities must not be allowed to cloud our judgement.

I am sending a form which I should like you to fill in and return to me before Christmas, and I shall be pleased to discuss any point with you at any time.

Yours sincerely.

  
J.H. Ellis.  
Chairman.