

BROXHEAD COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION

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(Founded 6th June, 1968)

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

June '76

Dear *Sir*

You may have read in the Press that at the Enquiry before the Chief Commons Commissioner, lasting some 12 days, we were successful in establishing Common Rights over the whole of Broxhead Common, extending to some 404 acres, and this means that the whole of Broxhead Common is registered as a Common, and will remain an open space for all time (subject to appeal on points of law).

The future of many of our Commons under the 1965 Act, including Broxhead, hinged entirely on a handful of ordinary local people who happened to own, or occupy the houses and properties adjacent, which had Common Rights, and who were not necessarily wealthy, and who came forward and Registered those Rights when asked to do so.

The Owners of the Common could object, in accordance with the Act to those Registrations, and did so, and we, the Commoners', had the option of either:-

- (a) giving in and seeing the Common destroyed, fenced, possibly becoming a huge sand pit, and probably followed by development and the complete annihilation of the flowers, trees and wildlife or:-
- (b) sticking to our guns and putting up a fight to save it.

We chose the latter, after the Commoners and about 70 local people guaranteed a sum of money towards the legal costs.

Unfortunately, the costs of the case, shared to some extent by the Hampshire County Council, was much greater than we had anticipated and we have a deficiency, we have decided to approach our friends, we think, would appreciate the long term implications of our activities and the value of unspoilt Commons, either as a Rambler, Horserider, Naturalist, or Birdwatcher.

We understand that the owner of the eastern part of the Common Mr P Whitfield, is to appeal against the Commissioners' decision, and the case is set down for hearing in London in November.

/ We feel

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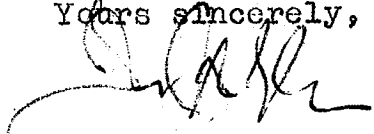
We feel we cannot let the case drop at this stage, having come so far, and that we must be represented by Counsel. The estimated cost is £4,000.00.

We have approached the Hampshire County Council, who are prepared to share the legal costs on a 50/50 basis.

The future use and access to our established Commons in this country is soon to be decided by Parliament, and we are pleased to know it will be the public in the long term, who stand to benefit most from the Commoners' lengthy activities.

I enclose a statement of account, the list of guarantors and donors, and ask whether you would like to be associated with our cause by making us a donation.

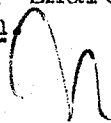
Yours sincerely,



J.H. Ellis,
Chairman.

P.S. 31/10/76

We are pleased to say we have recently wiped out our deficit, BUT we are responsible for our share of Counsel's costs at the appeal - This is Headleys last Common



BROXHEAD COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1976

	<u>1976</u>	<u>Up to</u> <u>31.10.1975</u>
	£ p	£ p
DEFICIT, brought forward at November 1, 1975	948.35	- -
EXPENDITURE:		
Legal costs	<u> - -</u>	<u>5,984.00</u>
	948.35	5,984.00
RECEIPTS:		
Hampshire County Council	- -	683.00
Local residents' contributions	115.90	2,533.00
Fund raising efforts	<u>811.73</u>	<u>1,820.00</u>
	<u>927.63</u>	<u>5,036.00</u>
DEFICIT at October 31, 1976	<u>£ 20.72</u>	<u>£ 948.00</u>

BALANCE SHEET
OCTOBER 31, 1976

	£ p	£ p
Owed to lawyers	21.76	1,251.00
Balance at bank	<u>1.04</u>	<u>303.00</u>
DEFICIT	<u>£ 20.72</u>	<u>£ 948.00</u>

Note: Further legal costs have been, and are being, incurred in connection with the appeal by Mr. Whitfield against the Commissioner's decision.

Prepared from the books and records by J. O. R. Darby.