

BROXHEAD COMMONERS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 6th June, 1968)

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

28 Jan '80

The Editor,
The Herald,
114, West Street,
Farnham, Surrey.

Dear Sir.,

With reference to Mr P Whitfield's quoted remarks under 'New from Headley' in last week's Herald to the effect that he has spent £50,000 to turn Broxhead Common into a Nature Reserve.

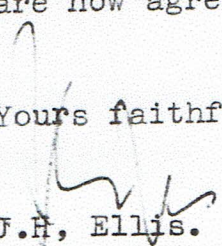
I would wish to correct any misunderstanding.

Mr Whitfield spent his money in an attempt to eliminate Common Rights over the East side of the Common in order to turn it into valuable agricultural land.

The Broxhead Commoners' Association's successful opposition to Mr Whitfield before the Chief Commons Commissioner in London and again at the Appeal Court 1974/5, has enabled the Hampshire County Council to preserve the Common in its natural state, and as a Nature Reserve.

I am however, very pleased we are now agreed that Broxhead Common was worth saving after all.

Yours faithfully,


J.H. Ellis.
Chairman.

The Chairman said that a new football club had been formed by John Coombe, with no ground of their own. This new club cannot demand ground at Broxhead Common East.

He asked the electors to make their views known. From his own viewpoint he felt the Village was being rushed into making a decision and hoped that nothing irrevocable would be decided before the new Area Plan for Bordon to Liphook and the whole area was made statutory in the near future.

Mr. Tom Gardener asked what the statutory requirements for open space were. He was told it was 2.5 acres per 1000 population. In 1981 the population was 1580. There had been an increase in population since then.

The Chairman "On this basis alone we would require at least 5 acres."

The Captain of the two new football teams said that they play on Army land each Saturday and the cost is £8.50/match, i.e. £17.00/week.

Lindford Royal Exchange Team is given room by the Lindford Sports Association.

Mr. Farrell wanted to know why the Planning Committee of E.H.D.C. changed its mind when told by Mr. Billenness about the solicitor's letter from the developers Martin Grant.

The Chairman said he could not explain the about turn of the members of the Committee

Mrs. Stoddard remarked that if the development ahead there would be another 1000 population added with no open space facilities available.

Mr. Coombes asked the difference between playing fields and playing area.

The Chairman said that the Chief Leisure Officer, Mr. R.N. Tedder expressed the view that playing fields are needed for people like the javelin thrower who uses Pear Tree Open Space for his activity.

Mrs. M. Kewish suggested compulsory purchase of 5 acres or more on the land in question.

The Chairman If we waited until the Committee has made up its mind about the use of the land, we might get the 5 acres or more by negotiation rather than by compulsory action.

Mr. Farrell referred to a park at Liphook.

Mr. Geo. Lewis noted that money was needed to buy land.

The Chairman said there were grants available. A lp rate would be £1 520.

Mr. Geo Lewis said that if designated as playing fields the price would be in the region of £2000/acre.

Mr. Hillier remarked that a school may be necessary in the future. The number of children entering primary schools this year was high and parents were taking their children to Kingsley and Headley. Another 150 houses would mean another 400 to 450 children. "The village needs another place for worship, a village hall and attendant car-parking, a park for walking and seats for relaxing. The more dwellings erected the less space is left. We have no real opportunity to express our views."

Major MacAleese "This is good agricultural land. Bordon has acres of barren land. 850 houses are going up in Bordon right now. Where will the children of these families go to school? Six dwellings are being built at Torrington where there was formerly only a bungalow."