

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

GREENS AND OPEN SPACES POLICY 2017.

The Debenham Parish Council has within its control a number of green spaces that it manages and controls on behalf of the parishioners within the village. These spaces are designated and protected as part of the visual amenity of the village and are, subject to conditions, available for the use and enjoyment of parishioners. They form part of the village infrastructure and are maintained and funded through the parish precept by the Parish Council. They vary in size and are predominately landscaped with some recreational equipment for public use. In particular the recreation ground near Coopersfield. The Parish Council accepts application requests for specific use on an individual basis where such use is deemed appropriate and to the benefit of the village. This includes use of the village green in the High Street for fund raising events, street fairs and other approved public events from time to time. The Parish Council has a general policy of encouraging the use of these spaces as part of the community's interaction and well-being.

In order to safeguard these important spaces, and to provide guidelines for their use, the Parish Council has produced a policy that seeks to cover the key points that constitute its governance.

These are as follows:-

1. General use by public.
This is restricted to pedestrian access only from the access location applicable to each location. Private access points created by third parties are not allowed without expressed consent as they can compromise security and alter the visual aspects of the spaces.
2. Specific use for commercial or organised events.
This must be applied for and approved by the Parish Council. The applicant will be responsible for any damage incurred and must accept full liability and indemnify the Parish Council against any claims that may arise including public liability. The applicant must provide evidence of insurance cover and return the space to its maintained condition at the end of the use period
3. The Parish Council reserves the right to make a charge for use of its spaces where there is a cost incurred by the council or where the user is a non-parish commercial applicant.
4. Applicant users must satisfy themselves as to the condition of the space prior to commencement and advise the Parish Clerk as to any matters that are deemed to be unsatisfactory. This could include rubbish tipped, damage to landscaping, dog fouling or other hazardous debris on or within the designated space. The council require at least 48 hours' notice within which to take appropriate action which may result in the space being unfit for use. In such circumstances the council reserve the right to withdraw its use consent on grounds of unfit for purpose with no recourse from the user.
5. Unauthorised use, damage or infringement of this policy will result in action being taken by the council to remedy, recover costs and impose appropriate penalty. Parishioners who witness any such unauthorised use or infringement are to contact the Parish Clerk immediately.
6. The Parish Council reserves the right to amend and alter its Policy from time to time without notice to users. The Parish Clerk should be contacted to obtain the current and up-to-date Policy (which is also available on the Debenham website).
7. The Parish Council reserve the right to restrict use and access to its green and open spaces from time to time for the purposes of maintenance and where such access is deemed temporarily unsuitable for public use.

INFORMATIVE.

The Parish Clerk will hold and maintain a schedule of the councils green and open spaces with a plan for identification which is available for inspection by parishioners and applicants.

The Parish Council operates a "Working Group" for "Greens and open Spaces" which comprises councillors and parishioners who deal with the day to day management of these spaces. Information can be obtained via the Parish Clerk.