

High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum
Recreational Activities and Green Open Spaces.

Anne Young & Helen Stocks

High Lane in 2017 has been left reeling regarding the proposals for development on greenbelt in the area and the implications to the identity of the village and its infrastructure. As a village we were not consulted in the formulation of these proposals. This is the community's opportunity to have a voice. We need the community to become actively involved in assisting the Neighbourhood forum to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan which incorporates within it, the promotion of health and wellbeing through access to recreational activities and green open spaces, for all age groups and abilities. This will ensure the right recreational facilities are provided in the right place.

The openness of the greenbelt affords the opportunity for outdoor sport and recreational pursuits and is utilised and highly valued by the community. As a forum we do not possess the authority to challenge decision making regarding the greenbelt (a protest group exists for this purpose). What we do have is a commitment and passion to enhance and protect the neighbourhood of High Lane its village status, green open spaces and recreational facilities.

Paragraph 3 of The National Planning Framework (2012) states: Access to high quality open spaces for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities....planning policies should be based on robust up to date information and assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreational facilities and opportunities for new provision.

Our plan will carry legal status and will sit alongside the Local Plan. We need the communities support to facilitate this process by a) demonstrating the contribution the greenbelt has to the village. b) Identifying those areas within the greenbelt within close proximity to the village which can be evidenced as of special importance. These areas can then be designated as local green space. Once designated this rules out new development on these sites, except in special circumstances. c) Exploration of existing recreational facilities for all ages and abilities within the neighbourhood, to determine any omissions/surplus which may further aid our plan. d) Working with existing clubs/societies/landowners who have land for recreational purpose to determine if there is a need for them to expand their facilities. This will aid exploration of a community right to build on surplus land.

We require community support with all of the above and to help us collect and collate data on the current provision of indoor/outdoor recreational activities/facilities for all age groups in the area as well as identifying future needs. Below is a list by no means exhaustive of some of the areas we need your support with. If you have a passion for any of these areas or wish to support our group in whatever way you can please get in touch.

Green corridors, Cycle ways, Footpaths, Bridleways, The Middlewood way, Canal, Beauty Spots within the greenbelt, Wildlife, Parks and Recreation Grounds, Recreational Clubs and Allotments.

If you have any recreation or green space information or want to help our group please contact us by email: ourforum@hlvnf.org