

Why is the Parish Council looking to change its byelaws ?

The Parish Council has had byelaws covering its recreation grounds, parks, play areas and open spaces since 1989. It has decided that it is now time to review those byelaws and bring them up to date. It wants to:

- make the byelaws less complex and more consistent with modern practice;
- remove restrictions that are no longer required;
- reflect changes to the areas owned or controlled by the Council since 1989; and
- ensure that any byelaws are a robust framework for tackling the unfortunate spates of anti-social behaviour that happen from time to time.

What changes is it looking to make ?

The changes that are being proposed include :

- An ability to enforce opening times if necessary
- Provisions to protect Wildlife
- Banning fires
- A prohibition on horse riding to address public concerns
- Relaxation of restrictions on cycling
- Restrictions on adults without children in play areas aimed at combating vandalism and protecting children
- An ability to enforce age restrictions on play equipment
- Bans on certain high risk sporting activity to replace provisions permitting the Council to restrict activities to specified areas
- Requirement for the Council to consent commercial activities or public events – this has always been a requirement but was not enshrined in the byelaws.

Where can I find the current byelaws ?

Copies of the current byelaws are available from the Parish Office.

How will the changes affect people affect people ?

The Parish Council has published a draft impact assessment on its website setting out its views of how the changes will affect people.

Won't this result in a lot more bureaucracy and restrictions ?

The Parish Council does not think so and believes changes will help address anti social behaviour which is a concern for many residents.

What is this consultation about ?

This consultation is intended to give local people and organisations an opportunity to say if they agree with the Council's views on the impacts of the proposed changes. It is required by law to give that opportunity for comment and will carefully consider all responses to the consultation before publishing a final assessment of impacts.

How can I have my say ?

You can make comments on the draft impact assessment by writing or e-mailing the Clerk to the Council by (25 August).

Why can't I comment on the draft byelaws at the same time ?

The Parish Council cannot formally consult on revised byelaws until it has the consent of the Secretary of State. Before it can apply for consent, it has to prepare a final statement of regulatory impacts. The Council hopes to get that consent to consult and carry out a public consultation on the revised byelaws later this year.

What happens next ?

Once the current consultation has ended the Parish Council will consider responses and agree a final statement of regulatory impacts. It will then seek the Secretary of State's consent to consult on the revised byelaws.