

Public Questions for Council 16th November 2010

(NOTE: The following question and answer will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after the meeting and linked to the published draft minutes of this meeting.)

1. Question from Mr Ian Barclay

In preparation for the Bath Recreation Ground Trust's forthcoming consultation on Recreation Ground Land Use (apparently to include Firs Field Combe Down), how will the Council make public Firs Field background information so as to complete the information already issued? This additional information appears to include:

- Council questions to legal counsel and counsel's opinions (ref Note to Combe Down residents, July 2009);
- A history of Firs Field from 1919 to the present day covering the "blue", "pink" and "white" land conveyances, legal issues including pink land trust document (ref July 2009 Note), Land Registry entry, to accompany the plan already issued, and Council's acquisition of Firs Field Land by way of gift;
- Present protection afforded Firs Field under the Local Plan, byelaws etc;
- Feedback reports on the Sulis Club meeting on 26 June 2009 and the Firs Field Proposal Note to Combe Down residents in July 2009;
- A record of Council active discussions with Combe Down Ward Councillors and Friends of Firs Field, from their commencement in 2009 up to the present time (ref Council Press Release 15 April 2009);
- Details of the "appropriate covenants that would give similar protection to the land as those that would be applicable for a village green" (ref Press Release 15 April 2009).

Answer from Cabinet Member for Resources

The Council made appropriate information available to the Friends of Firs Field and local residents of Combe Down during the consultation that took place last year. At that time the Council made clear that it would not be releasing Counsel's Opinion in relation to Firs Field, the Rec or otherwise as this would be inappropriate precedent.

The Council, in its corporate role, continues to have discussions with the Recreation Ground Trust and other parties in relation to this matter and will have regard to issues raised by the Friends of Firs Field and local residents, and indeed undertakings and indications given by the Council in its corporate role, at the time of the consultation.