

Use of the High Common, Bath – Theresa Franklin

My subject is the dangers of sharing golf with the public on The High Common which is a park. One of the things about golf being played in a public park is the obvious danger of golf balls. Golf balls can travel up to 100miles per hour.

We have known near misses on the golf course and certainly flying balls have hit houses on Cavendish Rd.

Here is a photo of a window in home in St James's Square which backs onto Cavendish Rd, and the golf course. The owner claimed from the GLL who were running the Approach Golf course at the time.



Should users of this public park, be subjected to these dangers on a daily basis.

The High Common reverted to parkland during the pandemic. Many rediscovered the High Common a place of sanity and sanctuary. We dont want it returned to golf.

We, the users of this park, are again pondering how it would affect our behaviour, should golf return.

Because, the truth is Golf on The High Common changes everything.

Where we walk, where we sit, and how we feel! We certainly cant linger. And our children cannot run free. You can't breathe comfortably. Always on the lookout for a flying golf ball.

It is no longer the experience one would expect from a park. Statutory definition of a Public Park
FREE AND OPEN ACCESS TO ALL THE PUBLIC.

Golf restricts that access physically and has an affect on us mentally.

Why should we be afraid, and constantly looking out for danger in a public park?

My question is -

Has anyone from BANES Health and Safety ever been asked to evaluate the risks to non golfers in this park environment, from both a physical and mental health perspective?

I can understand how 60 years ago, golf, pitch and putt really, might have been acceptable. But, surely not in 2022.

60 years ago, life was very different - people never wore seatbelts in cars, people drove drunk, people smoked, a lot, everywhere. Women could get fired for being pregnant. You get the picture.... None of these things are acceptable now.

This will more or less form the basis of my statement.

Regards

Theresa Franklin