

Neasham Parish Council

Consultation on proposed byelaws for Village Green

Neasham's current bye-laws came into force on 1 June 1960. No official copy seems to exist with any enforcing authority, the fine on conviction for a breach is a maximum of £2, and they prohibit things such as beating carpets or hanging out the washing on the Village Green. Life has moved on!

The purpose of bye-laws is to control the creation of a "nuisance", or damage, which would adversely affect people's enjoyment of the Village Green, *and* which is not controlled by other, more general, legislation (such as that relating to dog-fouling). The bye-laws are also *not* intended to deal with matters relating to public safety. What they should be limited to is to address actual or realistically anticipated problems over the use of the Village Green. Updated government procedures require that there should be local consultation, so that everyone has a reasonable opportunity both of agreeing what it would be helpful to control, and making their own suggestions about problems which they would like to see addressed.

The Parish Council has considered this and come to a preliminary conclusion as to the matters which need some control. That control may be by an activity requiring the Council's consent, or by prohibition. A short questionnaire is set out below, and we would like as many people as possible to say whether they agree or disagree with any of the Council's present proposals, as well as adding any thoughts or suggestions of their own.

The questionnaire may be obtained from any Parish Councillor, or the Clerk, or downloaded from our web-site (<http://www.parish-council.com/neasham/>) and when completed should be returned to the Clerk or any Parish Councillor as set out at the bottom of the questionnaire. Many thanks for your help.

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QUESTIONNAIRE relating to Neasham Village Green

General

1	Do you live in the parish or the village	Yes/no
2	Do you use the Village Green often (e.g. for walks, or enjoying the fresh air)	Yes/no

Do you agree that the following activities should be prohibited -

3	Digging up vegetation, or otherwise damaging the grass or plants?	Yes/no
4	Driving motor vehicles other than for maintenance, or crossing the ford?	Yes/no
5	Horse-riding, other than crossing the ford via the bridle-way?	Yes/no
6	Interfering with wild-life (including shooting and hunting)?	Yes/no
7	Bathing, boating, skating (when frozen!) or fishing on the Kent Beck?	Yes/no
8	Lighting fires or dropping a lighted match?	Yes/no
9	Playing ball-games with hard balls, such as cricket or golf?	Yes/no

Do you agree that the following should only be allowed if approved by the Parish Council -

10	Organised events (including vehicle access for organisers)?	Yes/no
11	Use of barbecues at organised events?	Yes/no
12	Use of tents at organised events only?	Yes/no
13	Archery, or throwing a javelin, discus, or similar, at an organised event?	Yes/no
14	Singing, playing music, or other forms of amplified sound at events?	Yes/no
15	Metal-detecting?	Yes/no
16	Aerial activities (except emergency landings)?	Yes/no

Do you agree that the following should be allowed, provided that (on a reasonable view) they don't cause damage, or annoyance or danger to other people -

17	Ball-games (other than with hard balls), cycling, skate-boarding, roller-skating or similar, and kite-flying?	Yes/no
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Please add below any other comments or suggestions in relation to any of the above, or any other matters you think should be controlled or managed in relation to the Village Green.

Please complete the questionnaire by circling the relevant answer to each question, or leave blank if you don't have an opinion on a question. Please add any other comments or suggestions in the space provided. If you would like to discuss these proposals further please contact the Clerk, or any Councillor. Thank you for your assistance.

Please return this questionnaire to the Clerk, Mr. John Walker, of High Barn, Sockburn Lane, Neasham, DL2 1PH, or to any Parish Councillor (details on web-site).