

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Guidance Notes for completion of an Evidence Form in respect of land adjacent to 7, Lock Close, Debenham

Debenham Parish Council has received considerable correspondence in respect of the 'open space' area adjacent to 7, Lock Close. This correspondence is generally critical of the actions of the occupant of 7, Lock Close in seeking to enclose this land and thereby allegedly taking it into his/her ownership.

You will see from the notes from the County and District Councillors the actions that this Parish Council could take in order that this land remain as a "public open space".

You will have read that for village green status to be awarded to land, evidence as to its prior use is necessary from "**a significant number of the inhabitants of a locality or neighbourhood within a locality as of right for lawful sports and pastimes for 20 years**".

From the correspondence received, we have been told that this land has been used on many occasions for many activities that could be classed as "lawful sports and pastimes", for example: walking, dog-walking, general relaxation and recreation, playing with or as a child.

We are satisfied that the land has been in these uses for in excess of 20 years, whilst Mid Suffolk District Council has maintained it and mown the grass at regular intervals.

If you wish to support this bid to create this land as Village Green, then please complete the attached **Evidence Form**, giving examples and timelines to the activities to which you would claim to having been witness. Your name and address is essential but to the best of the council's ability, will be kept confidential.

Please also note that the Debenham Parish Council is exploring the possibility of taking ownership of this land from the Treasury/Crown.

Please return your completed Evidence Forms by **midday June 15th 2009** to:

Debenham Parish Council, c/o 23 High Street, Debenham IP14 6QL