

Friends of Weaver's Field

Ladies and Gentlemen of Cheltenham Borough Council.

We: The 'Friends of weaver's Field' Warden Hill, present this petition to you.

Over 1,000 people signed the petition in objection to a Proposal from Councillor Whyborn, to change the majority of our beautiful green open space, in Warden Hill, Cheltenham.

We wish to state unequivocally that our hill, Warden Hill, on Weaver's Field is not a site that needs altering.

The majority of signatories are from Warden Hill and Hatherley. But past residents hearing of the plans signed, many quoting their happy childhood here.

Were this land unused, unloved, or unwanted by the population we would not be here today. Your legal department has received many letters of objection from local residents outlining so many, very valid reasons why this proposal should not be proceeded with.

We cannot believe that, or understand why, you should want to get rid of this wonderful green open space

To outline just a few of these objections..... the land is used weekly by hundreds of people, young and old for walks, exercise, fruit picking, ball games, kite flying, bird watching, nature trails, picnics and has been so-used for over 50 years.

*The field and hill are teeming with wild birds, **All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act**, and the field supports a variety of other wild life, including Bats and Slow-worms also protected under the Act.*

This is an area formerly promised in Perpetuity to remain as 'Green Open Space'.

The placing of allotments on it would require a large hard-standing for a car park, a wide gravel path behind many of the houses and a high fence, cutting off by far the better part of the land and virtually the whole of the hill viewpoint.... Amounting to hundreds of metres around the site, preventing access to the majority of the field for the general public.

Providing an amenity for the minority and preventing access for the vast majority is illogical and unfair. The hill on Weaver's Field is Warden Hill! It has been in existence since at least 1648 when it was named Warden's Hill.

As recently as Jubilee Tuesday – the 4th of June, we held our large street party in the entrance to the field, and on the same evening at 10pm –many others from around the estate gathered on top of the hill to view the Jubilee beacons ... using the hill for what is believed was its original purpose ... namely a Warden's Hill, a lookout point.... And we were clearly able to see at least 7 of the Fire Beacons from 2 counties.

The Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council, whose responsibility it is to provide allotments, have written to you, informing you that they wish to see this land remain as it is; A valuable public amenity!

The neighbouring Up Hatherley Parish Council – from Mr. Whyborn's own ward have written to you with the same message.

We the Friends of Weaver's Field have made application to have this beautiful green open space recognised as our Village Green, supported by sworn evidence of a total of over 870 years of collective usage.

Warden Hill, as a ward currently sits 15th out of twenty for the least amount of green open space in Cheltenham according to your own figures, please don't push us lower.

We urge you therefore to hear our petition, to listen to the people of Warden Hill and to reject this proposal.

Thank you...