

SAVE NEWLANDS CORNER

Please act now!

On 30th May 2017 Surrey County Council (SCC) applied to the Planning Inspectorate for Commons Consent to install 6 artificial play structures at Newlands Corner. If SCC obtains permission, it intends to put these large structures in cleared areas in the woodland. The aim is to attract more visitors and, therefore, more revenue from parking charges.

The unique character of Newlands Corner and its natural surroundings would be changed and harmed by this development; despite it being designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We consider that this is the start of the gradual and progressive erosion of the essential qualities of the site.

We believe parents should encourage children into the countryside for the love of the countryside itself, its natural beauty and wildlife and the natural open space, not to play on artificial play structures, which are available in many other places.

Protected species live in the woodland, including the hazel dormouse, Roman snails and bats. These animals will be disturbed by the increase in visitors; they will be displaced or will lose part of their natural habitat. Counts of hazel dormouse in the UK show its numbers have reduced by 38% since 2000. It is no excuse that only a relatively small proportion of land will be cleared. That was presumably the developers' excuse in the 17 counties where the hazel dormouse is now extinct.

The woodland in which the play structures will be placed is one of the principal ancient yew sites in the whole of Surrey. It should be preserved in a natural state.

The majority of residents do not want these artificial play structures. They are not necessary. In times of austerity, it is incomprehensible as to why SCC is spending up to £210,000 on them when the money could meet more-pressing needs. In addition, the ongoing maintenance costs will be an additional burden on Surrey taxpayers.

Do not let the fact that SCC received commons consent for parking charge machines deter you from objecting now. It is not inevitable that these structures will go ahead. Although parking charges will sadly deter many local people, **artificial play structures will change the very nature of Newlands Corner.**

If you are against this application and would like to object, see overleaf for how you can do this and some of the reasons why we think that this application should be refused.

YOUR OBJECTION

The Planning Inspectorate will only consider objections to the play structures themselves. You only have until Friday 7th July to object, so please send them to:

Email: commonlandcasework@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Or write to: Planning Inspectorate, Commons Team at 3F Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol. BS1 6PN

Title: Common Land at Albury Downs, Newlands Corner (CL344)

Remember: - You must include your name and address
- Use your own words as far as possible

1. There is no benefit to the neighbourhood, quite the opposite, or to the wider public interest, as artificial play structures are already available elsewhere in the area. Local people have shown overwhelmingly they do not want these play structures and they have not asked for them. They want their children to experience natural countryside and wildlife.
2. There will be a loss of existing use, and future use and enjoyment. The all-ability trail is currently much used by all kinds of people (including the elderly, those with disabilities and those with dementia) for an easy walk (or ride) through natural, **quiet** woodland. Its character would be irretrievably changed by a series of play structures.
3. There would be a seriously adverse effect on nature conservation. The woodland presently has much wildlife, including protected species of dormice, bats and Roman snails. The installation and ongoing use of play structures by concentrated groups of children is not compatible with safeguarding wildlife.
4. There would be an adverse effect on ancient woodland. This is one of the principle ancient yew sites in Surrey and should be preserved in its natural state. Concentrated and more intensive use of the woodland is not compatible.
5. Installing large artificial structures would adversely affect the landscape. In an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), there is a duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape.
6. The plan to attract more visitors and increase vehicle number from 255,000 to 365,000 per year over 4 years is not in line with the AONB requirement for low-key, long-term action. This intensity of visitors and cars would damage the environment at Newlands Corner and make the A25 even more dangerous.

PLEASE OBJECT NOW

Go to www.savenewlandscorner.com for more information