

The Fight to protect Woodcock Village Green Continues

A three-year battle to maintain the biodiversity and ecosystem of a vital village green in Borehamwood is entering judicial review, read on to learn more.

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Woodcock Hill Village Green is a 24-acre area of natural, wild, biodiverse land. It has been enjoyed freely by residents of Borehamwood for centuries. After gaining Village Green status in 2008, the Woodcock Hill Village Green Committee (WHVGC) have diligently maintained this shared, open space for the purposes of recreation and education and as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna.

2020 - Taylor Wimpey, a local developer, began proceedings to deregister 8 acres of The Village Green (TVG) in 'exchange' for inferior land. Proposed plans for the deregistered land include the development of 110 new houses in an already crowded area. The replacement land has been used as a grazing ground by horses, so lacks the rich biodiversity currently present in TVG. Accessibility to the new land will also be limited due to fenced fields and a steep hill. Additionally, the community has no cultural relationship with the replacement land and will not have the same motivation to maintain it.

2022 - In May, despite strong objections from the people of Borehamwood and with support from ELF, a planning inspector granted Taylor Wimpey the right to deregister this land. This decision came as a huge disappointment to the WHVGC and the wider community. However, the WHVGC refuse to give up on this case. ELF has now passed the case to Richard Buxton Solicitors, along with specialist barrister Joe Thomas, who will act on behalf of WHVGC as they lead a campaign for Judicial Review to overturn the inspector's decision.

ELF has worked closely with the WHVGC for the past two years and continues to take a keen interest in the outcome of this case. The deregistration of Woodcock Village Green sets a dangerous precedent for future development of protected green spaces in the UK and beyond. Fundraising efforts are ongoing for this legal campaign to find out more go to [Crowd Justice](#) or read about it on the ELF [website](#).

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