

Chapel Green Management - Questionnaire

There has been a great deal of discussion, and some disagreement, about how best the Parish Council manages Chapel Green. We are keen for this area to be freely available to residents as they wish and to that end, there are really only **2** options open to us, which are detailed below. We would like all interested residents of the village to vote on their preference, by ticking one box only and **returning the form to Mrs Cath Jones, Innisfree, 78 The Street, Rocklands by midday, Monday 6th November** in order that the vote can be announced at the Parish Council meeting that evening (commencing at 7pm) in the Village Hall.

A small amount of money will be available for helping towards the running costs of each of the options, but both will require volunteer labour.

Your participation, and views, are very important. We will abide by the majority decision so please take part!

1. Continue traditional management as wildflower meadow.

This requires one major annual cut in late July to August and removal of the hay, followed by regular mowing – except during March to July, to allow for flowering and seeding. Meadow is therefore short from August to March and then a traditional wildflower meadow.



2. Convert to short lawn.

Requires regular mowing throughout the year, particularly in summer. In order to keep the grass short, mowing would need to be on a weekly basis throughout the summer in order to keep the lawn short throughout the year.



Please complete the following:

Your Home Address:

.....

I am/am not* willing to volunteer to help with maintenance, once the decision is made. *Delete as applicable

The management of the green itself has nothing to do with the pond – this is a separate issue – which the Parish Council will take advice on. **Please put a tick in the box against your choice and return this form to Cath Jones. We need your contribution! Thank you.**

Rocklands Parish Council

RESULTS

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8. To discuss Chapel Green issues

Issues at Chapel Green had been discussed at the previous PC meeting held on 4 September 2017. There had been a show of hands and despite **51 out of 70 people present being in favour of the Green being maintained as a meadow** it was decided to produce a leaflet/questionnaire asking for residents' views in order to reach a wider audience. Cllr. Southgate explained the leaflet had been produced and distributed as there seemed to be a lot of people that were passionate about the Green. Most completed forms were returned to Cllr. Jones by the deadline and had been counted. A few late ones had been given to Cllr. Howie and as these were only given to Cllr. Jones at this meeting, she had to incorporate them into her previous totals.

There were 2 options on the form with tick boxes. (SEE QUESTIONNAIRE ABOVE) Option 1 was to continue traditional management of the Green as a wildflower meadow. Option 2 was to convert the Green to short grass. Each option was accompanied by a brief description of what this would entail. There was also a box to tick in order to offer help with maintenance once any decision had been made. One resident said the form was invalid and another said it was biased. Cllr. Southgate said the form was in no way biased and any detail was factual and not based on any personal views.

76 completed forms were returned.

51 were in favour of option 1 (Wildflower Meadow) - of these 31 were willing to help.

25 were in favour of option 2 (Short Lawn) - of these only 4 were willing to help.

In summary: **The preferred option is to maintain the Green as a wildflower meadow.**

All councillors unanimously agreed and asked that Chris Sharpe should be allowed to get on with his work in this respect without further incident. Chris Sharpe was at the meeting so will have heard first-hand the results of the Questionnaire that supports Chapel Green being maintained as a flower meadow. Cllr. Howie thanked both Cllrs. Southgate and Jones for their help with the survey.