



Open Spaces Society

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COMMONS ACT 2006: VOLUNTARY DEDICATION OF LAND AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Section 15(8) Commons Act 2006

New powers are available which allow an owner of land, to voluntarily dedicate land as a town or village green by applying to have it included in the register of town or village greens.

Reasons for registration

1. The land you own is already used by local people, perhaps by permission, for recreation and you wish to formalise the position and protect the land for use by local people. Or you want to allocate land which has not previously been used for recreation.
2. You are promoting or funding the provision of open space or improvement of open space.
3. You want to create a lasting public memorial and put something back into the community.
4. As part of a development you are required to provide a recreational area, as a planning condition.

Application to register

The process is simplified and does not require the usual evidence based type of application.

Complete Form 44 and submit to the commons registration authority. The authority is not required to examine the merits of the application, it need only be satisfied that you are legally entitled to apply to register.

You will need to consult any lease or charge holder to inform them you intend to apply for voluntary registration. They will need to provide written consent.

The application must include a map and description of the land, and identification of the locality or neighbourhood within a locality where local people live who will have a right to use the green.

You need to confirm in a statutory declaration that you are the owner of the land and have obtained any necessary consents.

An application cannot be rejected but the authority could ask for further evidence of ownership.

Nicola Hodgson
Case Officer
September 2010