

30 July 2013

Greens: what next?

We have lost one battle—but we need your help to fight a new one.

Despite our sustained opposition to provisions in what is now the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013, it is no longer possible in England to apply to register land as a village or town green if that land has been earmarked (even secretly) for development. We now have to find new ways to save our green open spaces. And these will cost money.

The government has introduced a new designation in England, Local Green Space (LGS), which it claims will be a substitute for village greens. Of course it is not: LGS offers no right to the public to wander and no guarantee that the land is protected in perpetuity.

But we must take what advantage we can of the new designation.

In the first place this means we must persuade the Department for Communities and Local Government to provide clear guidance on what the new designation means. There should be freedom for the public to enjoy the LGS land and for the land to be properly protected.

In practical terms that means we shall be lobbying MPs and peers. In financial terms that means travel to London to meet and talk to legislators; it means preparing and issuing briefings and putting out press releases. These are the sort of operations which a professional public-relations consultancy performs for its clients in return for a handsome fee. We do it on a shoestring.


It will also cost us money to ensure that, as members of the society, you are equipped to do your job in these changed circumstances. We need to help you to register land as a village green before it is threatened, in England and Wales. We need resources to monitor the new process and to help you ensure that land previously held as important open space in local plans is not lost when those plans are reviewed. Details of our campaign are on our website at <http://www.oss.org.uk/how-you-can-help/support-our-campaigns/>.

Our guidance on registering land as village greens will need considerable amendment. We shall have to publish a new edition of *Getting Greens Registered*. There will be an increase in the number of questions from our activists which we must answer. That means more staff time, and that means more money.

So this is an appeal. We call it '**Greens: what next?**'. We don't know the answer to that question. With your help we shall try to find an answer that will secure green spaces for all.

Please give to '**Greens: what next?**' You can help to make the *next* better than we dare hope.

Yours sincerely



Tim Crowther
Chairman

PS Please send your cheque to Open Spaces Society, FREEPOST (RG1344), Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA or visit our website <http://www.oss.org.uk/make-a-donation/>. Thank you.