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10 December 2016

Dear Member

Save Our Spaces

The work we do is governed by what you, our members, ask us to do. And it is clear from your messages that open spaces throughout England and Wales are now under unprecedented pressure. Local authorities are slashing their budgets for parks and open spaces—and at the same time they want to exploit those spaces to make money. So our green acres suffer the double whammy of neglect and commercial abuse.

Look at the list of our campaigns this year.

In **London** alone these are just some of the cases we are tackling:

- we have helped local campaigners stop the Formula E motor race from trashing **Battersea Park, Wandsworth**,
- we are fighting **Brent Council's** plans to use their parks to generate income,
- we have, for the moment, helped to stop Westminster Council from renting the **Victoria Embankment Gardens** to a theatre company, and
- we hope to join the **Friends of Finsbury Park's** case in the court of appeal to stop the Wireless Festival which, we argue, would be illegal in the park.

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The Open Spaces Society 25a Bell Street Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA



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Across England and Wales:

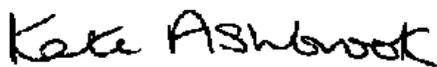
- we are campaigning to save green spaces in **Bridgend**, South Wales,
- we are working to prevent **Harrogate** Borough Council from loosening the Harrogate Stray Act 1985 which would allow new, extensive commercial events on that great open space,
- in **Manchester** we are opposing the use of **Heaton Park** for a large festival,
- at **Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne**, there is a scheme to build private tennis-courts, and
- in the countryside we are fighting the sale of **downland** by **Brighton and Eastbourne Councils** and **Lancashire County Council's** plan to flog off its country parks.

In September we made a submission to the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry on public parks, calling for local authorities to be given a statutory duty to provide, manage and maintain parks and open spaces, and for better planning protection for these vital public assets.

You can see that the **Save Our Spaces** campaign is fast gaining momentum and it needs your support. Our staff are few, but they work hard and they have the expertise to fight your battles. And, as always, we stand ready to take legal action where we believe we can establish important precedents. Needless to say, all this costs money.

Please give generously to the **Save Our Spaces appeal** to enable us to continue this vital work.

Yours sincerely



Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary

**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/how-you-can-help/appeals/>.
Thank you.**



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