

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

12 January 2026 20:18

'PRIVATE LAND' AND IFIELD BROOL MEADOWS LOCAL GREEN SPACE [LGS] - GREAT EXCITEMENT LAST SATURDAY ON THE WALK THROUGH IFIELD BROOK MEADOWS LOCAL GREEN SPACE [LGS] - WEST OF IFIELD

Categories:

Comments Received

IFIELD BROOK MEADOWS

LOCAL GREEN SPACE • PUBLIC INTEREST



Request for Clarification on Access, Signage, and Protection

Ifield Brook Meadows is designated as a *Local Green Space* by *Crawley Borough Council*.

The land is understood to be in the ownership of **Homes England**, a public body, and has *not* been granted planning permission.

Recent installation of “Private Land” signage raises important questions:

- What is the legal status of public access?
- Are public rights of way or permissive paths present?
- Was public use considered in the *Local Green Space* designation?
- Is such signage consistent with the purpose of a *Local Green Space*?

Dear Cllr Michael Jones - CBC Leader

I am further writing in relation to the planning application for Land West of Ifield, Charlwood Road, and the associated implications for Ifield Brook Meadows, which is designated as Local Green Space within Crawley Borough Council's adopted development plan.

This correspondence has two purposes:

first, to formally record alignment with the planning concerns raised by Crawley Borough Council as a neighbouring authority; and second, to seek clarification regarding the status of public access and recent "Private Land" signage at Ifield Brook Meadows.

1. Alignment with Crawley Borough Council's Planning Objection

I note Crawley Borough Council's published objection to the above proposal, particularly in respect of its strategic scale, prematurity, and cross-boundary impacts. I share the Council's concerns that development of this nature should be planned through an agreed strategic or joint framework, rather than determined in advance of such a framework being in place.

In particular, I note the Council's concerns regarding the absence of a coordinated approach to cross-boundary impacts, including effects on landscape setting, green infrastructure, biodiversity networks, recreational pressure, and transport movements within Crawley Borough.

I also note Crawley Borough Council's concerns regarding the implications for Ifield Brook Meadows as a designated Local Green Space, including indirect impacts arising from increased recreational pressure, disturbance, and changes to setting. It appears that the submitted material does not sufficiently demonstrate, at this stage, that the integrity, function, and long-term protection of this Local Green Space would be safeguarded.

For these reasons, and consistent with Crawley Borough Council's published position, I consider that the proposal raises significant concerns in relation to plan-led decision-making, strategic coordination, and the protection of designated green infrastructure.

2. Request for Clarification: Access Status and Signage at Ifield Brook Meadows

In addition, I would be grateful for clarification from the Council regarding the legal and planning status of public access at Ifield Brook Meadows.

It is my understanding that the land is in the ownership and stewardship of Homes England and that it has not been granted planning permission for development. I am acutely aware of "Private Land" signage being erected within and adjacent to the Meadows, and I would appreciate clarification on the following points:

1. Whether any part of Ifield Brook Meadows is held or protected as statutory public open space, or otherwise subject to legal provisions securing public access.
2. Whether any public rights of way, permissive paths, or other recognised access rights exist across or within the Meadows, and whether these are recorded or acknowledged by the Council.
3. Whether public access, community use, or public enjoyment of the Meadows formed part of the evidence or justification relied upon by the Council when designating the land as Local Green Space.
4. Whether, in the Council's view, the erection of "Private Land" signage is consistent with the intended function, designation, and long-term protection of a Local Green Space, particularly where the land has been subject to long-standing informal public use.
5. Whether the Council has been consulted on, or has provided any guidance relating to, the installation of such signage.

I would be grateful for clarification of these matters in order to better understand the legal position and the Council's expectations regarding access, management, and the continued role of this designated Local Green Space.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottages

Ifield Street, Ifield Village

Crawley, West Sussex

RH11 0NN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WHEN THE EGRETS ARRIVED

A moment nature spoke for Ifield

Something extraordinary happened at Ifield Brook Meadows.

On a community walk beside the Brook, walkers stopped.

There, in clear view, stood a pair of egrets—brilliant white against the water and reeds.



Egrets do not settle in damaged places.

- ✓ Clean, living water
- ✓ Healthy freshwater ecology
- ✓ A wetland capable of sustaining wildlife

Why this matters

GREAT EXCITEMENT LAST SATURDAY ON THE WALK THROUGH IFIELD BROOK MEADOWS....

Dear Cllr Michael Jones - Leader of Crawley Borough Council

Great excitement last Saturday on the walk through Ifield Brook Meadows - part of the proposed 'Ifield Park - Gatwick'...

Spotted along the Brook were a pair of pure white Little Egrets - or were they Great Egrets?

Controversy ensued afterwards as to whether it was one or the other, but whatever, there are a pair of egrets in Ifield Brook Meadows.

Why is this important?

Because if they are here to make it their home and breed, this would be amazing - and reinforce the case for upgrading Ifield Brook Meadows from Local Green Space [LGS] to Local Nature Reserve [LNR].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

The Ifield Society

**2 Lychgate Cottages
Ifield Street, Ifield Village
Crawley, West Sussex
RH11 0NN**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



