

Sent:

13 January 2026 10:43

Subject:

"LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE IN IFIELD"

Attachments:

thumbnail - 2026-01-13T093556.467.jpg

Categories:

Comments Received

"LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE IN IFIELD"

Dear Editor

What is happening?

[Homes England](#) has issued notice to close Ifield Golf Club before the West of Ifield planning application has been determined.

Many residents and parishioners within this community believe this action is premature and places unacceptable pressure on the local democratic planning process.

Why does this matter?

Planning decisions must be made on the basis of: planning policy · public evidence · local consent - not under the shadow of a pre-emptive eviction issued by a government-backed master developer. When irreversible action is taken before a decision is made, it risks shaping the outcome, rather than allowing a fair, just assessment.

A simple democratic test

If Homes England is confident in its case, why not allow the planning process to run its course — without pressure?

Anything less risks undermining public trust in the integrity of the democratic planning system.

This is not party politics

This issue is not about political parties, and it is not an attack on councils, councillors or MP's. [Crawley Borough Council\]\] and Gatwick Airport Ltd , and others](#), have raised clear, legitimate objections to the proposal, including its devastating impact on [Ifield Brook Meadows](#) and beyond. Those concerns deserve to be fully respected — not unilaterally bypassed.

Why people are angry

This is not about a single planning application.

People are responding to a pattern of bullying behaviour and abuse of power, including:

- The threatened closure of Ifield Golf Club
- "Private Land" signs on public land used by the public for centuries.
- Blocked or destroyed bridges/access points in Ifield Brook Meadows Local Green Space [LGS]

What angers people is not only these illegitimate, non-democratic actions - but the arrogant assumption they would be accepted by councils and community alike.

A democratic alternative is more than possible

The developer-led vision has been often presented as inevitable - a 'done deal'.

It is not.

A democratic, community-led, plan-led alternative vision is more than possible:

[Ifield Park – Gatwick](#)

- protecting nature and heritage
- restoring public trust
- shaped by evidence, consent, and good planning
- achievable with political will

An international planning conference has been proposed to develop this vision properly.

Ministerial responsibility — and our role as a community

Homes England is a government body, not a private developer.

Ministerial intervention to withdraw the speculative application and remove the threat to close Ifield Golf Club would be a proportionate step to restore confidence in the democratic planning process, prevent further damage to public trust and avoid greater haemorrhaging of public money.

That case depends on our MPs - and that depends on us. It's called democracy.

The message

This is not just a planning dispute - it's about letting democracy breathe.

Let it breathe.


The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottages

Ifield Street, Ifield Village

Crawley, West Sussex

RH11 0NN





LET DEMOCRACY BREATHE



What is happening?

Homes England has issued notice to close **Ifield Golf Club** before the **West of Ifield** planning application has been determined.

Many residents believe this action is **premature** and places **unacceptable pressure** on the democratic planning process.

Why does this matter?

Planning decisions must be made on the basis of:

- planning policy · public evidence ·
- local consent.

—not under the shadow of a **pre-emptive eviction** issued by a government-backed *master developer*.

A simple democratic test

If Homes England is confident in its case, why not allow the planning process to run its course — **without pressure?**

Anything less risks undermining public trust in the integrity of the planning system.

Why people are angry

This is not about a single planning application.

People are responding to a pattern of behaviour, including:

- the threatened closure of **Ifield Golf Club**
- “Private Land” signs on land long used by the public.
- blocked or destroyed access points in Ifield Brook Meadows
- achievable with political will

A simple democratic test

If Homes England is confident in its case, why not allow the planning process to run its course — **without pressure?**

Anything less risks undermining public trust in the integrity of the planning system.

This is not party politics

This issue is not about political parties, and it is not an attack on councils or *councillors*. Local authorities — including **Crawley Borough Council** — have raised clear, longstanding objections to the proposal, including its impact on Ifield Brook Meadows and the wider parish.

Those concerns deserve to be respected — not *bypassed*.

A democratic alternative exists

The developer-led vision is often presented as inevitable. It is not.

A democratic, community-led, plan-led alternative is possible:

- **Ifield Park — Gatwick**
- protecting nature and heritage
- restoring public trust
- shaped by evidence, consent, and good planning
- achievable with political will

An international planning conference has been proposed to develop this vision properly.

The message

This is not just a planning dispute.

It is about allowing *democracy to breathe*.