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**Sent:** 04 January 2026 14:37  
**To:** Jason.Hawkes  
**Cc:** Planning  
**Subject:** TOMORROW'S IFIELD GOLF CLUB PROTEST - JANUARY 5TH 2026 - A SHORT STATEMENT FROM THE IFIELD SOCIETY

**Categories:** Comments Received



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# DEMOCRACY BEFORE BULLDOZERS

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# COMMUNITY BEFORE MASTERPLANS

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## CALL AND RESPONSE – IFIELD PARISH

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WHAT COMES BEFORE BULLDOZERS? **DEMOCRACY**

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WHAT COMES BEFORE MASTERPLANS? **COMMUNITY**

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## A SHORT STATEMENT FROM THE IFIELD SOCIETY

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Homes England's decision to close Ifield Golf Club  
in its centenary year  
is **DEMOCRATICALLY WRONG.**

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The speculative West of Ifield planning application  
that drives this threat  
is **DEMOCRATICALLY WRONG – AND DEMOCRATICALLY UNSTABLE.**

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Public trust has been lost.

We call upon Crawley Borough Council,  
Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council, and others,  
to work together with this parish community  
to restore trust in the democratic planning process  
and plan a viable alternative.

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## IFIELD PARK – GATWICK

*A Local Nature Reserve & Heritage Centre*

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**Richard W. Symonds**

*The Ifield Society*

## **A SHORT STATEMENT FROM THE IFIELD SOCIETY**

We don't like bullies —  
and we are not alone.

Homes England's decision to close this Golf Club  
in its centenary year  
is democratically wrong.

The speculative West of Ifield planning application  
that lies behind this threatened closure  
is also democratically wrong.

It is democratically unstable.

This is a premature application to Horsham District Council  
that does not meet the democratic planning standards  
required in an ancient parish —  
here in Ifield —  
and beyond.

Public trust has been lost.

We therefore call upon  
Crawley Borough Council,  
Horsham District Council,  
West Sussex County Council,  
and others,  
to work together —

with this parish community —  
to restore public trust  
in the democratic planning process.

And to plan  
a viable, democratic alternative  
to Homes England's masterplan.

To that end,  
a Local Nature Reserve and Heritage Centre  
is proposed:

Ifield Park – Gatwick.

This parish believes in democracy, in fairness, and in planning done with people — not to them. That is the standard we expect, and the standard we will defend.

Democracy before bulldozers. Community before masterplans. Always.

Thank you.



The Ifield Society