

**Sent:**

26 January 2026 12:16

**To:**

Jason.Hawkes

**Subject:**

'WARNING BELLS WEST OF IFIELD ?' + 'HERITAGE EMERGENCY' DECLARATION WITHIN THE ANCIENT PARISH WEST OF IFIELD

**Attachments:**

thumbnail - 2026-01-25T112232.851.jpg; thumbnail - 2026-01-26T102534.169.jpg

**Categories:**

Comments Received

['HERITAGE EMERGENCY' DECLARATION WITHIN THE ANCIENT PARISH WEST OF IFIELD'](#)

[https://museumsandheritage.com/advisor/posts/stoke-on-trent-becomes-first-uk-city-to-declare-heritage-emergency/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPkM4VleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeVrzb6VGyRkDuTLGEO1z54JQ\\_ZXfpul1S4xN66aFycTMhpS\\_52rICsPI17Gs\\_aem\\_A5d1Y7s8bHy0Xng-5bpA1A](https://museumsandheritage.com/advisor/posts/stoke-on-trent-becomes-first-uk-city-to-declare-heritage-emergency/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPkM4VleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeVrzb6VGyRkDuTLGEO1z54JQ_ZXfpul1S4xN66aFycTMhpS_52rICsPI17Gs_aem_A5d1Y7s8bHy0Xng-5bpA1A)

## WARNING BELLS WEST OF IFIELD ?

Dear Editor,

A warning bell should now be ringing.

The reported appointment of a [former Chief Executive of Homes England to a senior interim role within a Combined Authority](#) is not, in itself, improper.

But in the context of live, contested developments such as West of Ifield, it is disturbingly instructive.

It illustrates how the system of housing power circulates — quietly, institutionally, and largely beyond public scrutiny — while communities are told that outcomes are neutral, local, and purely evidence-led.

Homes England is not a background adviser in West of Ifield. It is the landowner, the promoter, and the planning applicant. Its actions already include issuing an eviction notice to close Ifield Golf Club before any democratic planning decision has been made.

Against that backdrop, the continued 'revolving door' movement of senior housing figures into strategic governance roles matters — not because of any allegation of wrongdoing, but because democratic planning depends on distance, restraint, and visible independence.

When irreversible actions are taken early, when institutional influence feels omnipresent, and when decision-makers appear surrounded by a closed circuit of policy insiders, public trust erodes — even if every rule is technically followed.

That erosion is the real democratic danger.

West of Ifield does not need rushed momentum. It needs legitimacy. It does not need acceleration. It needs democratic breathing space.

This is precisely the moment for caution, transparency, and procedural stability and restraint. If the planning system is to command public confidence, it must not only be lawful. It must look lawful.

And right now, many residents are entitled to ask whether it does.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

The Ifield Society

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Public Footpath  
**CLOSED**

**EVICITION  
NOTICE**

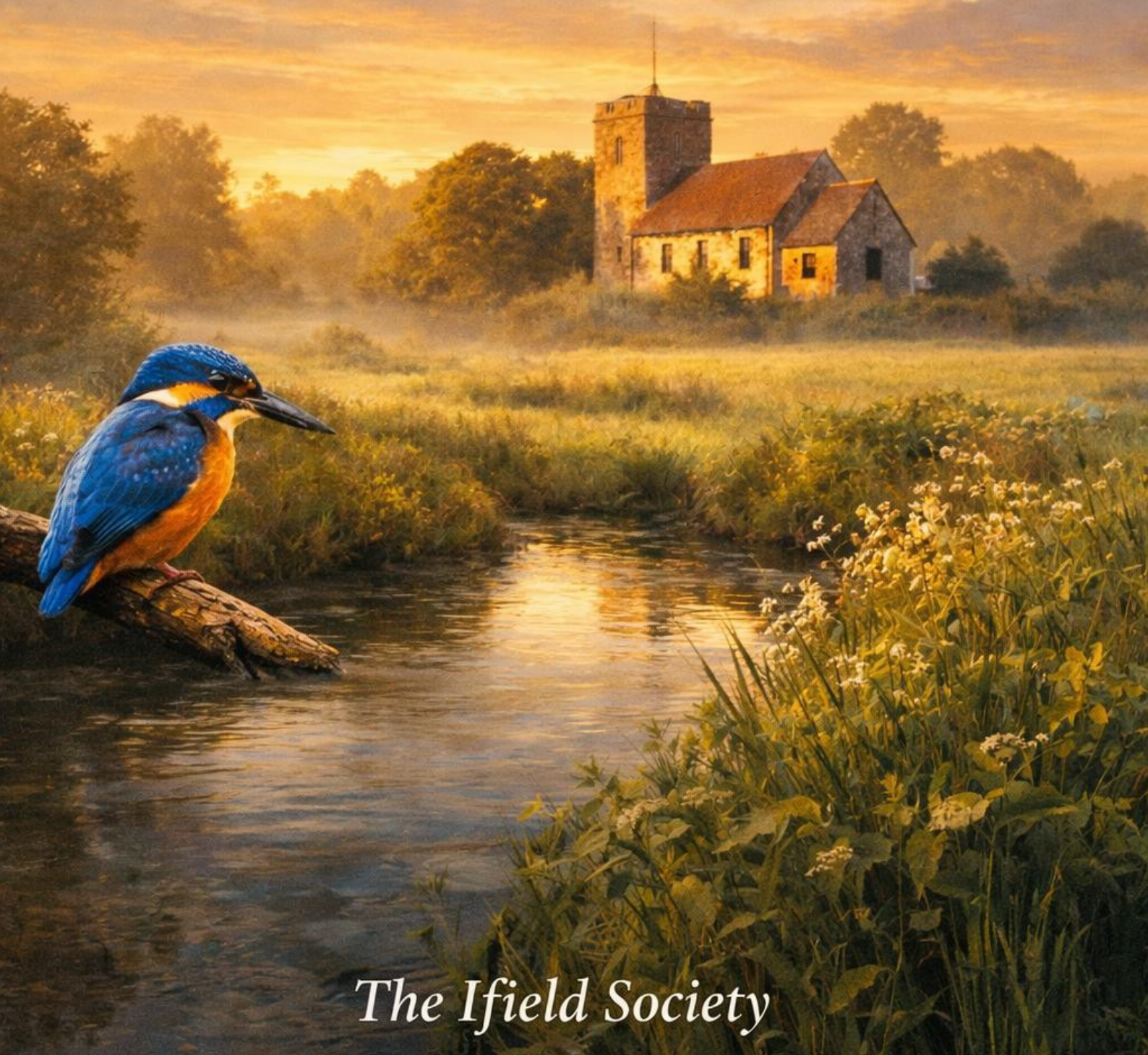
**PLANNING  
APPROVED**

*Charles James*

*West of Ifield — Ancient Parish*

# HERITAGE EMERGENCY

*Once lost, it cannot be replaced.*



*The Ifield Society*