

BOSTON SPA PARISH COUNCIL

POLICY RE BALL GAMES ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy sets out how the Parish Council regulates the playing of ball games on land in its ownership. Such land includes parks, open spaces, recreation grounds, playing fields, grassed open spaces on land on Council estates and any other open space in the ownership of the Parish Council. It does not include pavements, streets, highways or other land to which the public may have access.
- 1.2 If you are experiencing damage or anti social behaviour, the Parish Council recommends that any incidents are reported to the police on 101. The police will provide an incident number for each incident. As well as enabling the police to react, subject to their resources and priorities, it enables any incidents to be recorded and a picture built up over time of issues within specific areas.

2. LEGAL POWERS

- 2.1 There is no general criminal prohibition on using land in the ownership of the Parish Council for ball games.
- 2.2 Where there is no general right of public access to the land the Parish Council has all the powers of a private owner to regulate use of the land, including taking legal action to prevent ball games (where practicable) or other appropriate action to abate any nuisance caused by ball games.

3. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Parish Council has a policy of promoting sport and outdoor recreation carried out in a responsible manner.
- 3.2 The Council will only prosecute an offence where there is adequate evidence to prove the offence and it is in the public interest to do so. In general terms the likely sentences and deterrent effect of prosecutions under byelaws do not warrant prosecutions, particularly where children and young people are involved.
- 3.3 The Parish Council should not erect signs prohibiting ball games unless it is prepared to take appropriate action against persons playing ball games in breach of the prohibition.

4. POLICY

- 4.1 Boston Spa Parish Council will encourage and promote the playing of ball games in a responsible manner upon its land in places where no nuisance or inconvenience is caused to other members of the public on the land, or to adjacent landowners.

- 4.2 Boston Spa Parish Council will work with the police and other appropriate agencies to prevent and limit the playing of ball games in an anti-social manner. That includes persons kicking balls against cars, fences or otherwise damaging property of adjacent landowners.
- 4.3 Where Boston Spa Parish Council receives reports of persons regularly playing ball games in an anti-social manner on it land it will encourage the complainant to report the matter to the police of anti-social behaviour for appropriate action.
- 4.4 Where appropriate, and subject to the provision of appropriate finance, appropriate landscaping may be carried out on land subject to this policy to prevent or limit the playing of inappropriate ball games.
- 4.5 In view of the policy not to make prohibitions which are unlikely to be enforced, signs prohibiting ball games will not be erected on Council land.

Adopted at the full Parish Council meeting dated: 19th September 2016

Signed
Chairman

.....
Clerk