

## Appendix A

### List of all signatories

Margaret Jackson  
Peter Jackson  
Mitzie Davies  
David Davies  
Colin Tait  
Catherine Plowden  
Linda Ashbrook  
Ray Ashbrook  
Derek James  
Angela James

## Appendix B

### Question 7. Justification for Application to Register the land as a Village Green

#### Grounds of Application and Evidence under the Act 2006 Section 15 (1)

We apply to register the land in Pickmere at the lakeside now known as the Informal Recreation and Open Space (IROS) as a village green because we believe the land meets the criteria, namely that a significant number of inhabitants indulged and do indulge in lawful sports and pastimes and have done so for in excess of 20 years 'As of Right'.

#### History

In Victorian times the land was owned by several small companies. It was sold to the Spencer family for use as boating and pleasure activities.

In 1927 the land was sold to Mrs Cheetham who owned it until 1990, when she retired. The land was then sold to a company named Turn Future who unsuccessfully applied for planning permission for seven years until 1997. Turn Future did encouraged water sports on the lake including jet skiing and, sadly, as a direct result the wildfowl and protected bird species disappeared. The public were unhappy with the activities on the land so the land was not greatly used from 1990 to 1997.

Following an accident involving a breeding swan the water sports were banned by the local authority and subsequently, in 1997 Turn Future were declared bankrupt and went into receivership. The land reverted back to the Co-op Bank.

During the years between Victorian times and 1997 the land was always free to use by the community of Pickmere, without permissions.

In 1997 the Co-op Bank approached the then Parish Council to consult with the community for agreement for planning permission for a Development Company to build 12 properties on the right hand side of the land. The agreement was that the development would be accepted if, in return, the left hand side of the land was retained as recreational space for the community.

Accordingly, the land was gifted to the community, held in trust by the Parish Council, and was designated as Informal Recreation Open Space (IROS) by Macclesfield Borough Council.

The then parish council obtained grant funding from the national lottery and made considerable improvements to the land including disabled access, health and safety measures and tree planting to enhance the land. A small pavilion that had been established to house toilets and a small kitchen for the builders was given with the land to the community of Pickmere and was improved to provide similar facilities for the public in line with most rural open spaces and country parks.

Gradually, the wildlife, swans and we believe some protected bird species, returned to their original habitat. These birds regularly walk up the few metres from the edge of the lake onto the grass of the IROS, often with their babies. They rest there in the sunshine and accept food to the delight of all the children, (and adults, if the truth be known). This is a magical place and the jewel in our crown.

The pictorial presentation demonstrates that the land has been used by the residents of Pickmere, (and visitors), since the oldest villager can remember. It has been used for lawful sports and pastimes 'As of Right' by the community of Pickmere for more than eighty years. There have never been restrictions of use imposed. The land has never had permanent occupation.

The community of Pickmere use the IROS for many recreations including:

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dog walking                   | daily               |
| Children playing              | daily               |
| Children feeding the wildfowl | daily               |
| Bird watching                 | daily               |
| Family Picnics                | seasonal/frequently |
| Walking                       | daily               |
| Friendly football games       | sometimes           |
| Friendly cricket games        | seasonal/sometimes  |
| Teas at the lake              | seasonal/weekly     |
| Listening to the brass band   | seasonal/sometimes  |
| Friendly meetings             | sometimes           |
| Kite flying                   | frequently          |
| Peaceful contemplation        | daily               |
| Children sledging             | seasonal/frequently |

## Royal Events

Community events e.g. family fun days

The IROS is also used by hikers and trekkers

The IROS has a Public Footpath running directly through it.

It is home for flora and aqua fauna

Mr Joe Robinson is our local historian and has written and had printed several books on Pickmere, including the lake and the IROS. He is happy to provide any further information for you if you would like. He is now unable to walk to the IROS but he continues to travel four times a day, every day, in his motorised scooter to walk his dog, chat to the locals and his friends, feed the wildfowl and just enjoy what he considers to be part of his heritage.

The following paragraph is a direct lift from the Pickmere Press, (local news letter) printed in September 2000.

"The Parish Council is also committed to conservation measures at the lakeside and has been highly commended by English Nature for the improvements it has already achieved. It has always been envisaged that this area will remain as natural as possible and as low maintenance as possible. We are working closely with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Cheshire County Council Environmental Department. A subcommittee of 50% Parish Councillors and 50% Pickmere Lake Conservation Society has been elected to manage this Informal Recreational Open Space. Grant aid is being sought .....Improvements are gradually being made.....This independent island of land will be reserved for wildlife habitat and the valuable long grasses ...will be retained to support wildlife".

## Appendix C

### Question 11 – Expected Challenge to the Application for Registration

We expect our application for registration to be challenged by six of eight councillors on the Pickmere Parish Council as they are currently proposing to build a Community Centre on the IROS land together with car parking to serve 70-100 members of the public. In addition there would be all the surrounding hard standing required to make the building accessible across the land, (although this hard standing has not yet been shown on any drawings). We estimate that most of the IROS land would be affected and that recreational freedom for villagers and animals would be curtailed and especially inhibited by moving vehicular traffic on the land at any time of the day and night

It is proposed that funding for the new build would be met in part by the sale of our existing village hall and its land, a beautiful, Victorian building in a perfect location on green belt land and part of Piickmere's heritage. We have not yet been advised how the remaining funding would be raised.

Our Parish Plan published circa 2010 indicates that "80% of the community are satisfied with the village hall" so we are uncertain from where the demand for the new build comes from, especially in these days of austerity, and why, as almost the entire community uses the IROS for sport or recreational pastimes.