Fairfield
Parish Council

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2nd September 2015

Mr Richard Carr
Chief Executive
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
Bedfordshire

SG17 5TQ

Dear Mr Carr,

Outstanding 106 issues at Fairfield

I write as chairman of the FPC to ask for an urgent meeting with yourself.

It is now over four years that I wrote, then as an officer of the Fairfield Park Residents Association, to Andrew Davie pointing out that several areas of Fairfield designated for community use were not fit for purpose and on which ownership and regular maintenance obligation was unclear.

Various meetings were held with officers but the core problems remain unsolved. The Parish Council took up the issues when it was formed in April 2013. Again numerous meetings have taken place, the most recent chaired by Alistair Burt, MP.

While ownership is now clear, proper management remains the major issue since there is none.. The people intended can enjoy none of the community assets. It has proved impossible to bring one of the freeholders, Hotbed Investments, to the table to discuss, while the other – P J Livesey – have declared that, in their view, the land in question is potential building plots.

The Parish Council has retained Blandy and Blandy solicitors to advise on matters. Their planning department is accepted as being one of the leading teams in the country. I have attached their report from which you will see their view that compulsory purchase will be the only effective way to resolve the issue.

They are, however, recommending we make one last effort to get meaningful discussions with the freeholders concerned. We are willing to do this but would prefer to go into them in the knowledge that CBC will, if necessary, take compulsory purchase action on behalf of the Parish Council.

I hope you will agree to meet and look forward to your response.

Please note that because of repeated criticism from residents at the apparent inaction by the Parish Council on these matters, we are making both letters public.

Yours sincerely,

Barrie Dack
Chairman