

From:
Sent: 12 July 2026 06:15
To: Mathias Franklin; Steve Mawson
Cc: Cllr Charles Greaves; Paul Davies MP
Subject: Planning Application Ref 2026/91468 (Broadacres, Honley)

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Dear Mathias and Steve,

A planning application is currently under consultation for the land adjacent to 18 Broadacres, HD9 6ND.

For at least the past 24 years, this land has been used by local residents as a public footpath with my neighbours at 18 Broadacres mowing the grass and maintaining a vegetable patch. Since moving to 16 Broadacres in April 2016, we have seen it serve as an established and valued community asset. This grassed pathway provides a safe route through the estate, particularly for children, and is regularly used by local residents. In addition, the site represents the only accessible open green space within the estate where children can play and socialise safely without having to cross a main road. Its loss would remove a valuable community asset that supports children's safety and recreation, while reducing the availability of green open space for local residents.

The space is also used for community events, including our annual neighbourhood Easter Egg Hunt and a shared firework celebration that brings local residents together. Its role as public open space is reinforced by its connection to the adjoining grassed area and the purpose-built opening in the dry stone wall, which clearly facilitates public access.

I would also like to highlight that, over the past five years, the area has experienced a noticeable increase in localised flooding, with surface water regularly flowing down from the adjacent fields. The green space under consideration currently performs an important natural flood management function by absorbing and slowing surface water runoff, helping to reduce the risk of flooding to nearby properties and infrastructure. Retaining this green space is likely to become increasingly important as more frequent and intense rainfall events are expected in the future. The loss of this natural drainage area could increase surface water runoff and exacerbate flood risk within the surrounding residential area.

It has come as a considerable surprise to discover that the land is no longer designated as Public Open Space following a Section 106 agreement associated with new housing on Honey Head Lane (application 2025/90297). Local residents of Broadacres, who are directly affected by this Section 106 change, were not consulted or informed of any proposal to alter the land's designation before this planning amendment was approved. This lack of consultation has left many residents concerned that a significant change affecting a valued community space was made without their

knowledge or opportunity to comment. The developer has, as of this weekend, fenced off the entire green space blocking public access.

I am concerned that the process to remove a Public Open Space has lacked transparency and meaningful public engagement. I would ask the Council to explain why this change was made, under what authority, what consultation was undertaken, and how local residents on Broadacres were notified and given an opportunity to comment.

Given the long-standing public use of this land - both as a footpath and recreation space - and the apparent absence of consultation regarding its reclassification, I respectfully request that the planning application is not determined until these matters have been fully investigated and clarified.

I also ask that the Council gives significant weight to the land's long-established use as a public footpath and community open space when assessing this application, together with the loss of amenity, openness, and public benefit that development would cause.

I look forward to your response explaining the process by which the land's designation was changed and how the Council considers this to have complied with its obligations for transparency and public consultation.

I cc Cllr Charles Greaves and Rt Hon. Paul Davies MP, who I would also ask are both consulted and kept informed of this matter.