

neighbourhood plans

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 November 2017 11:28
To: neighbourhood plans
Cc: info@paigntonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk
Subject: Paignton Neighbourhood Plan - White Rock Local Green Space

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the Neighbourhood plans proposal to designate White Rock recreation ground as a Local Green Space.

I represent Paignton Villa amateur football club who currently play at Whiterock on a Saturday afternoon. We are a F.A. Chartered Standard Club with two senior teams and four youth teams and have been part of the South Devon Football League since it was established in 1926. Paignton Villa have been playing at Whiterock for many, many years and when I first joined the club in 1991 the pitch was probably not fit for purpose, being known locally as the 'White Rock Bowl'. Significant investment by both Torbay Council and Sport England resulted in the level and well drained pitches and facilities we see today.

As well as Paignton Villa the pitches are also used by two more senior teams, Riviera United and Hookhills United, and three youth teams, Marldon United under 13's, 14's and 16's.

Within the entire Paignton catchment there are only two Council owned recreation grounds that support football pitches, these being White Rock and Clennon Valley. Unfortunately the pitches at Clennon valley are in a flood zone and are generally unfit for play during most of the winter making them undesirable to local teams. In fact the Council's pitch allocation information shows that there are no football teams, either senior or youth, currently playing at Clennon Valley on either a Saturday or Sunday during the football season. In contrast White Rock is fully subscribed with the teams detailed above.

White Rock Recreation Ground is located on the edge of Paignton which is currently an area of significant development, both housing and commercial. These developments will include hundreds of new homes but nowhere is there any provision for natural sports pitches. Alongside this there is South Devon College which, as noted within the Neighbourhood Plan, has a need for green space to accommodate sporting facilities.

If Torbay Council wish to promote a healthy Torbay as part of their corporate plan then green spaces such as White Rock must be protected as safe and open areas where local communities are encouraged to engage in a healthier lifestyle. This is particularly relevant for our children who are known to be at increasing risk of obesity and the associated health problems.

I believe that White Rock Recreation Ground is currently the only public realm in Paignton that offers proper pitches and facilities for sports and its supporting physical activity. It adds value to the local community through these activities and therefore community wellbeing is maintained.

I truly hope that White Rock can remain a part of our neighbourhood for years to come and that will be underpinned when it gains Local Green Space designation.

Kind regards

Kevin Fox
Secretary
Paignton Villa FC