

RECREATION GROUNDS, PUBLIC WALKS AND OPEN SPACE BYELAWS

Byelaws made by the Town Council of Houghton Regis under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875 and Section 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 with respect to recreation grounds and open spaces.

1. In these byelaws:  
"the Council" means the Town Council of Houghton Regis  
"the ground" means each of the recreation grounds and open spaces listed in the schedule.
2. A person shall not in the ground without reasonable excuse:
  - (i) climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the ground, or any tree or any barrier, railing, post, or other erection:
  - (ii) remove or displace any barrier, railing, post or seat, or any part of any erection or ornament or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the ground.
3. A person shall not, except in pursuance of a lawful agreement with the Council, or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought into the ground beast of draught or any cattle, sheep, goats or pigs.
4. (i) A person shall not, except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought into the ground any barrow, truck, machine or vehicle other than:-
  - (a) a wheeled bicycle or other similar machine:
  - (b) a wheel-chair or perambulator drawn or propelled by hand and used solely for the conveyance of a child or children or an invalid.

Provided that where the Council set apart a space in the ground for the use of any class of vehicle, this byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit the driving in or to that space by a direct route from the entrance to the ground of any vehicle of the class for which it is set apart.
- (ii) A person shall not except in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege ride any bicycle or other similar machine in any part of the ground.
5. A person shall not in the ground remove or displace any soil or plant.
6. A person who brings a vehicle into the ground shall not wheel or station it over or upon:-
  - (i) any flower bed, shrub, or plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant:

- (ii) any part of the ground where the Council by a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position in the ground prohibit its being wheeled or stationed.
7. A person shall not in the ground walk, run, stand, sit or lie upon:-
- (i) any grass, turf or other place where adequate notice to keep off such grass, turf or other place is exhibited:  
  
Provided that such notice shall not apply to more than 1/6th of the area of the ground.
  - (ii) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant.
8. A person shall not in the ground -
- (i) bathe, wade or wash in any ornamental lake, pond, stream or other water:
  - (ii) without reasonable excuse foul or pollute any such water.
9. Where the Council set apart any such part of the ground as may be fixed by the Council and described in a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position in the ground, for the purpose of any game specified in the notice board, which, by reason of the rules or manner of playing, or for the prevention of damage, danger, or discomfort to any person in the ground may necessitate, at any time during the continuance of the game, the exclusive use by the player or players of any space in such part of the ground - a person shall not in any space elsewhere in the ground play or take part in any game so specified in such a manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game from the use of such space.
10. A person resorting to the ground and playing or taking part in any game for which the exclusive use of any space in the ground has been set apart shall -
- (i) not play on the space any game other than the game for which it is set apart:
  - (ii) in preparing for playing and in playing, use reasonable care to prevent undue interference with the proper use of the ground by other persons:
  - (iii) when the space is already occupied by other players not begin to play thereon without their permission:
  - (iv) where the exclusive use of the space has been granted by the Council for the playing of a match, not play on that space later than a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for the beginning of the match unless he is taking part therein:

- (v) except where the exclusive use of the space has been granted by the Council for the playing of a match in which he is taking part, not use the space for a longer time than two hours continuously, if any other player or players make known to him a wish to use the space.

11. A person shall not in any part of the ground which may have been set apart by the Council for any game, play or take part in any game when the state of the ground or other cause makes it unfit for use and a notice is set up in some conspicuous position prohibiting play in that part of the ground.

12. A person shall not in the ground -

- (i) except as hereinafter provided erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or any structure:

Provided that this prohibition shall not apply whereupon an application to the Council they grant permission to erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure upon such occasions and for such purpose as are specified in the application:

- (ii) sell, or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity or article, unless, in pursuance of an agreement with the Council, or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege he is authorised to sell or let or hire in the ground such commodity or article.

13. A person shall not in the ground, drive, chip or pitch a hard golf ball.

No person shall in the ground -

- (a) intentionally obstruct any officer of the Council in the proper execution of his duties;
- (b) intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contact with the Council; or
- (c) intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the ground, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons in the ground.

14. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

15. Any person offending against any of these byelaws may be removed from the ground by any officer of the Council, or any constable.

Repeal of Byelaws

16. The byelaws by made Houghton Regis Parish Council on 30th October, 1962 and confirmed by the Secretary of State Home Office on 11th March, 1963 relating to the Village Green and Tithe Farm Recreation Ground are hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE

SECTION 164 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875

VILLAGE GREEN

OPEN SPACE REAR OF VILLAGE GREEN KNOWN AS HOUGHTON COURT

TITHE FARM RECREATION GROUND

ORCHARD CLOSE RECREATION GROUND

PARKSIDE RECREATION GROUND

SECTION 12 AND 15 OPEN SPACES ACT, 1906

OPEN SPACE REAR OF ORCHARD CLOSE RECREATION GROUND

Given under our hands and seals this *11th* day of *September* 1989.

*J. Kirchella*  
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*D. B. B.*  
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Members of Houghton Regis Town Council

