

# Local Green Spaces in Lindfield Parish

The Parish of Lindfield lies within the heart of Mid Sussex and covers some 224 hectares (2.24 km<sup>2</sup>). The population at the 2011 census was 5,836 and is concentrated in and around the village of Lindfield. (However these statistics do not include the part of the eastern section of the village that is within the Rural Parish.)

A survey has been undertaken of all the green spaces within Lindfield to identify any that would merit protection as “Local Green Spaces”, as they are possible sites for future small scale development that would be to the detriment of the existing environment.

The associated map of Lindfield illustrates all the green spaces within the Parish but many of these already have protection as they are either, within a Conservation Area, within Areas of Townscape Character, a registered Common or Allotments owned by the Parish Councils. If we also discard those green spaces that are really just large grassy verges left over from earlier developments that are too small to accommodate any building, then there remain a number of areas within and adjacent to the built up areas that are considered valuable Green Space Assets for the community and should therefore be registered as Local Green Spaces.

## 1: Hickmans Lane Recreation Field.



*Photo: Hickmans Lane Recreation Field looking east from the Hickmans Lane junction with Finches Park Road.*

Hickmans Lane Recreation Field is managed by Mid Sussex District Council and includes a children’s playground, football pitches and cricket pitches depending on season together with a pavilion which is also used as a children’s nursery.

It is also used by some local schools as a sports playing field and the Lindfield Football Club use it for some of their matches and as a training ground for their youngsters training sessions on Saturday mornings.

## **2: Green space at Finches Gardens.**

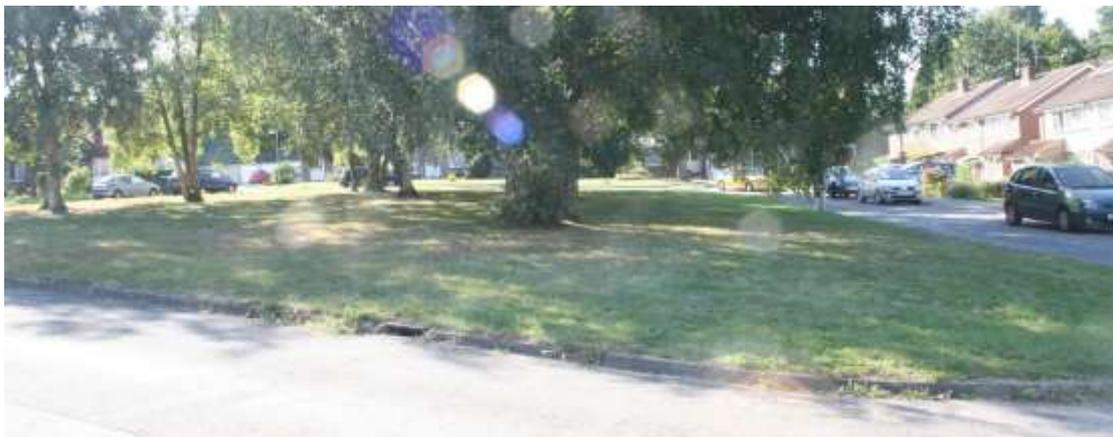


*Photo: Finches Gardens as seen from Hickmans Lane.*

The cluster of houses that comprise Finches Gardens are located at the top of a rise from Hickmans Lane. This was the site of the Tudor style mansion of Finches before the whole of the Finches estate was developed for private housing in 1964.

This area of rising grass and trees is an important landscape feature off Hickmans Lane and is a particular favourite place for sledging by local children during the winter.

## **3: Fieldway Green.**



*Photo: Fieldway Green looking towards the west.*

This is an area of community open space within a square of houses that are part of the Fieldway estate. It is grassed with some well spaced trees and is a welcome green space within this urban development. Development of this area would be detrimental to the overall open environment of this part of the Fieldway estate.

#### **4: The Welkin's Green Squares and Large Open Spaces.**



*Picture: The open spaces around the entrance to The Welkin.*

There are a number of open green spaces spread throughout the Welkin estate that are an outstanding feature of this development. The large expanses of green space just inside of entrance from Hickmans Lane and the two large grass squares at the north-west and north-east extremities of the estate are all large enough to accommodate additional housing. Such developments would be detrimental to the overall open environment of the existing Welkin estate.



*Picture: One of the open spaces at the north-east of The Welkin.*

## 5: The Wilderness Field.



*Photo: Wilderness Field from the Limes estate looking towards Wilderness.*

As part of the Limes housing development a parcel of land to the north of the new houses known as Wilderness Field is to become a green recreational area. This is to be initially managed by Barratts before being handed over to Mid Sussex District Council. Development on this field would be detrimental to the setting of the houses with the Wilderness and to the views of the Grade 2 Listed Buildings that comprise Old Place.

## 6: Chaloner Road Greens.



*Photo: Green in front of 13-24 Chaloner Road.*

Chaloner Road runs from the Lewes Road northwards into Newton Road where it terminates in a very unusual road layout that incorporates a number of parking spaces within its centre. The houses fronting onto the sides of this square are themselves fronted by a pair of large greens that features a number of mature trees. Infilling these squares with new housing would be detrimental to the existing environment.

## 7: Limes estate – Green field buffer zone.



*Photo: Pedestrian entrance to the Limes estate from Eastern Road through the green buffer zone.*

The Limes estate was built by Barratts during 2012/13 and part of the eastern part of estate has been left as a green environmental buffer zone as protection for the Eastern Road Nature Reserve. Although not intended to become part of the adjacent Nature Reserve, this green space merits its own degree of protection.

*Words & Photos by Alan Gomme, September 2013.*