

Local Green Spaces in Lindfield Rural Parish

The Parish of Lindfield Rural lies within the heart of Mid Sussex and covers some 1967 hectares. The population at the 2001 census was 2595 and is concentrated in Scaynes Hill and to the north and south around the village of Lindfield. The settlements of Walstead, East Mascalls, Paxhill and Buxshalls are also within the Parish.

The river Ouse cuts across the Parish at virtually its centre and its tributary, Scrase Brook, runs to the rear of the allotment gardens in Gravelye Lane and The Hollow and forms the western boundary with the Village of Lindfield and Haywards Heath.

A number of areas within and adjacent to the built up areas of the Parish, especially in Scaynes Hill, are considered valuable Green Space assets for the community:

1. Scaynes Hill Common



The Common, beside Church Road, was purchased by the Parish from the Manor of Balneath, in 1996. It is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance and is maintained in a natural state for the benefit of the community and the environment.

2. Anchor Pond and Common, Scaynes Hill



Another area owned by the Parish is the pond and surrounding area in front of the Inn on the Green Pub at the top of Anchor Hill on the Lewes Road in Scaynes Hill.

The pond is home to a variety of wildlife, including the protected Great Crested Newt, and would have originally been created as a dewpond, getting its water mainly from rainfall, although it is thought that before the road up Anchor Hill was widened, there had been a spring that also fed the pond; the road widening works are thought to have diverted the spring. The original purpose for the pond would have been for watering of animals, mainly those used for transport along the road, but it probably also served as a water supply for the steam traction engines that came into use later.

In 1990 the condition of the pond had seriously degraded and it was saved from 'destruction' by four Scaynes Hill residents, who organised the financing and work of reconstruction with the help of many others from within the community.

3. Scaynes Hill Recreation Ground



Scaynes Hill Recreation Ground is owned by Mid Sussex District Council. It contains an area used for football, as well as a well equipped children's play area and outdoor basketball court. The football pitch is used by the local Scaynes Hill football club for their home matches.

4. Scaynes Hill Cricket Ground



The cricket ground located adjacent to Eastlands Farm on the Lewes Road, opposite Costells Wood on the outskirts of Scaynes Hill. Scaynes Hill Cricket Club was formed

in 1905 and has been using the ground since it's inception. The club has 3 senior teams playing in the West Sussex Invitation League and a number of junior teams playing in the North and Mid Sussex Junior Cricket League.

5. Informal Recreation Area off Lyoth Lane, Lindfield

The area of land involved is still awaiting formal planning permission. It is being provided as part of the major housing development by Wates Ltd. in the Gravelye Lane area of Lindfield Rural Parish. The land forms part of the green space between the built up area of Lindfield and the hamlet of Walstead. If/once planning permission is granted for this area, it is felt that it should be classified as a Local Green Space to ensure that it is not, at some later date, re-assigned for housing with the resultant coalescence of the two settlements.

Lindfield Rural Parish Council
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