



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

APRIL 2011

<http://www.irara.org.uk>

IRARA STILL TRYING TO GET ECC TO SUBMIT THE IRVINE ROAD FIELD FOR INCLUSION IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2012 FIELDS CHALLENGE

It's not too late to join the QEII 2012 Challenge and help save the field

Prince William's Queen Elizabeth Challenge has presented an ideal opportunity to try and win the fight to save the Irvine Road Field. The challenge aims to save 2012 playing fields all over the country as part of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. We need your help.



The Irvine Road field: ticks all the boxes, Essex County Council take note!



How Can Individuals Get Involved?

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is an exciting new programme to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee led by its Patron Prince William. It is a landmark project to create a permanent, tangible and relevant legacy from the two major events scheduled to occur in the UK in 2012; Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

We would like as many people as possible to sign up to our campaign and to vote for the field they would like to see protected in their area in 2011. In the meantime, if you know of a particular playing field that you would like to see become a Queen Elizabeth II Field then find out who owns the land – a Parish Council or Local Authority – and encourage them to submit it to the scheme!

If you would like more information on The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge then contact us at Fields in Trust on info@fieldsintrust.org or 020 427 2110.

How you can help: full instructions on the website at www.qe2fields.com

Diary Dates

IRARA AGM – 14th June 2011 at the Drury Arms

The 2011 IRARA AGM will be held at the Drury Arms again this year on Tuesday 14th June, starting at 7.30. Everyone is welcome and non-members can join on the night, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter and bring it along with you.

Garage sale – Sunday 8th May

We are having an informal garage sale on Sunday 8th May from 11.00am to 3.00pm (weather permitting), so why not join us, set up a stall and unload some of those hidden treasures!

Now that spring is finally here and the issue of the Philip Morant School access road has receded (for the time being, at least) we think it's time for a big push to get Essex County Council to keep the promises they made as part of the 'softening up' process to pave the way for the unnecessary road. Stephen Castle (Holder of the property portfolio?) went on record as saying that the Irvine Road Field would be handed over to Fields in Trust **"Regardless of the outcome"** of last year's talks.

So far, ECC have ignored our requests to get on with it and Mr Castle has chosen not to reply to our attempts to elicit a commitment from him. IRARA believes that one of the most effective ways of securing the Field would be to have it included in the QE2 2012 Challenge. The deadline for inclusion is looming and Colchester has few other entries, so the chances of the Field making it onto the list would be very good.

It meets all the requirements of a public playing field used and valued by the local community, and as such is a perfect candidate for inclusion and permanent preservation. It also falls in with ECC's stated intention of handing over the field to Fields in Trust once the access road talks were completed.

What you can do

As usual, it is up to us to make our wishes known to the local politicians and try and hold them to their promises. We are asking members to write or email ECC (as they are the landowner) and point out that the Irvine Road Field is a perfect candidate for inclusion in the QE II Fields Challenge, and that submitting it would be a good public relations opportunity for Essex County Council, who could





certainly do with some positive publicity. It would also be an excellent way of demonstrating that they do in fact keep their word.

Email Councillor Stephen Castle at:

Cllr.Stephen.Castle@essex.gov.uk

or write to him at:

OF:

**Councillor Stephen Castle
Essex County Council
County Hall
Market Road
CM1 1QH**

**Councillor Stephen Castle
577 Dawes Heath Road
Hadleigh
Essex SS7 2NJ**

Petition

1 What is the initiative all about?

The QEII Fields Challenge aims to safeguard hundreds of playing fields in perpetuity for future generations in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and as a permanent tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. The initiative has particular pertinence given the other landmark event scheduled to take place in the UK in 2012: the London Olympics.

2 Why is access to green space such an important issue at this time?

Access to outdoor space is vital for communities and plays an important role in providing a place for both physical activity and relaxation. Sport and play are essential tools for developing confidence, self-esteem and learning the importance of team work. It is well documented that community recreation reduces alienation, loneliness and anti-social behaviour whilst also promoting ethnic and cultural harmony.

The recent Inverdale report published in May 2010 states that there is evidence that the number of playing fields has reduced from 26,000 in 1992 to 20,000 in 2009 and so it is vital that we take action.

On our side: the initiative neatly makes the case for playing fields like the Irvine Road Field, if only we can get ECC to keep their word.

IRARA will also be organising a petition to be handed to Essex County Council as a means of publicising the issue. If you want to get involved and feel you can spare an hour or two to collect signatures, please contact Dave Kennedy at 28 Irvine Road or email him at the email address below.

DAVID WHITEHEAD

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of David Whitehead, a popular resident of Irvine Road who has been very supportive of IRARA over the years. David and his wife Hazel have been members of IRARA since its beginning, and very generously lent us their lounge for the first ever IRARA meeting, some 11 years ago. As a friend and good neighbour he will be sorely missed.



How Can Local Authorities Get Involved?

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is an exciting new programme to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee led by its Patron Prince William. It is a landmark project to create a permanent, tangible and relevant legacy from the two major events scheduled to occur in the UK in 2012; Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

We would like Local Authorities across the country to nominate a number of fields in their area that they would be happy to protect as a Queen Elizabeth II Field which can then be put to a public vote in 2011. The eventual winner will be protected and designated a Queen Elizabeth II Field.

Local Authorities can submit their nominations to the Challenge by contacting Fields in Trust on info@fieldsintrust.org or on 020 7427 2110.

What Do Local Authorities Gain?

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a high profile national campaign that has a real impact and benefit on local communities. It represents an excellent and cost effective way for Local Authorities to mark both the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics in their area whilst also securing a platform to help achieve key targets around increasing physical activity and promoting the sustainability agenda.

What Are the Benefits of Protecting Fields?

- Making an express and recognizable commitment to local people to safeguard land, facilities and opportunities for sport, play and outdoor recreation both now and forever
- Protecting public access to outdoor space
- Providing reassurance to potential investors regarding viability and sustainability
- Ensuring that in the case of sale proceeds are reapplied to replacement facilities, with a priority on new outdoor facilities

Local authority gains: The initiative spells out the gains to local authorities and in the case of the Irvine Road Field, inclusion couldn't be simpler. We just need to get Essex County Council to keep their promise to the community.

PLANNING APPLICATION

IRARA is supporting the residents of Maldon Road and Drury Road who are objecting to the proposed 3 storey town houses which are part of the re-designed planning application for development of the former garage site at the Junction of Drury Road and Maldon Road. The rest of the development looks fine to us, but there seems no need for such large structures in a neighbourhood designed for 2 storey houses. We have objected accordingly and hope to get the plans amended. Only two of the proposed new houses are shown as having 3 storeys, so if we can get the developers to reduce their size, overall the new development will be a reasonable solution (short of creating an open green of course!) to a long-standing issue.



Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2011/12

Annual membership of IRARA is £3.00 per household and is open to anyone living in Athelstan Road, Audley Road, Capel Road, Irvine Road and adjacent parts of Maldon Road and Shrub End Road.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

I/We wish to apply for membership

I/We wish to renew our membership

Do you think the association should continue to fight for the preservation of our public open space for the benefit of local children? Yes No

Would you be interested in helping with some of the association's activities (for example, leaflet drops, litter clearing etc.) Yes No

Please fill in this form and hand it to your representative or send it to: Daniel Fox, IRARA Treasurer, 33 Irvine Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.

Member of Federation of Colchester Residents' Associations

Member of Open Spaces Society