



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# newsletter

Your voice in the local community

OCTOBER 2010

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

IRARA URGE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TO SUBMIT THE IRVINE ROAD FIELD FOR INCLUSION IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2012 FIELDS CHALLENGE

## Join the QEII 2012 Challenge and help us save the Irvine Road 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 Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.



### 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](mailto:info@fieldsintrust.org) or 020 427 2110.



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

How you can help: full instructions on the website at [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com)

### 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.

### 3 How many fields actually need to be secured to reach the 2,012 target? How many do you have already?

Around 1,500 need to be secured to make the 2,012 target. At present, Fields in Trust currently protects 1,271 fields. Many of these are already dedicated to specific people or purposes, notably the King George V Memorial Playing Fields, which were established as a memorial to the late Monarch after his death in 1936, and total 471 fields. Some other sites that make up the 1,271 fields are very localised and small and do not meet the criteria established for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields. Therefore, the total number of existing sites that can be included is approximately 550 leaving the total of new dedications to be found between now and 2012 at around 1,512.

### 4 Are you creating any new fields? Or are they all existing fields?

It is anticipated that the vast majority of the fields commemorating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be existing playing fields – where they are valued and supported by the votes of local people it is very important that they are protected. However we also hope to help create some brand new fields by protecting outdoor space within new housing estates, persuading private landowners to donate land for recreational use – especially in rural areas – and potentially through the conversion of public wasteland.

### 5 Aren't you just re-naming existing fields after The Queen?

Absolutely not, Fields in Trust exists to safeguard fields through legal means by placing covenants on the land, meaning they have to remain playing fields forever. Decades of urban development have seen the stock of playing fields reduce substantially. Once lost, playing fields are lost for good. FIT's aim is to safeguard existing fields for the future. The QEII Fields Challenge will boost existing numbers of safeguarded fields for the benefit of future generations.

All we have to do is remind Essex County Council of their promise to hand over the field and get them to submit it to the scheme.

A quick scan of the QE II Fields Challenge requirements set out on the website confirms that the Irvine Road Field 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. This also falls in with ECC's stated intention of handing over the field to Fields in Trust once the access road talks were completed, 'regardless of the outcome'.

The unfortunate, but totally predictable truth, however, is that ECC have gone totally silent on the subject and have not responded to requests for information or meetings from IRARA and Fields in Trust. Since the collapse of the Philip Morant School development plans (which we predicted repeatedly in previous newsletters) Essex County Council have completely ignored our requests for confirmation that they will hand over the Field as promised earlier this year by Stephen Castle, the County Councillor responsible.

### 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

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.





wonderful 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:

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

or:

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



**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](mailto: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

**OTHER NEWS:**

**Notice board**

The IRARA notice board has now been erected at the corner of Irvine Road and Capel Road, on the grassed area leading to the Irvine Road Field. If you have any notices or other items you would like posted on the notice board, please contact Barbara Addison at 48 Irvine Road.

**IRARA litterpick**

There is another litterpick scheduled for Sunday 17th of October, which is the weekend before half term. If you are able to turn out and help you will be very welcome. Previous litterpicks have been very well attended and we have been pleasantly surprised at the way in which people from outside the area regularly get involved. Bags and equipment will be provided, all you have to do is turn up at the corner of the Irvine Road Field and Shady Lane on Sunday morning.

We aim to start at 10.30 providing the weather co-operates, and have a relatively litter-free Shady Lane and Field at least for the half term week.



*Litter pick Sunday 17th October 10.30 onwards: previous litter picks have been well attended.*



*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.*



**Irvine Road Area Residents' Association**

**Membership application/renewal form 2010/11**

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