

**Committee: Open Spaces**

**Date: 4 April 2023**

**Title:** Request to register fields at the base of Herne Hill as a Community Asset

**Purpose of Report:** To consider a request from a Member for land to be registered

**Recommendation:**

Members Resolve to recommend to Full Council that the land identified as areas I1 and I2 be put forward for registration as Community assets.

**Report:**

1. On a number of occasions over the past few years the town Council has considered the land around the base of Herne Hill with a mind to see it retained for the use of the community.
2. Most recently the Council approached the Somerset County Council with a mind to take on the section of Land identified as I1 in Appendix 12A. When approaches have been made to Somerset County Council the response is that they area waiting on a private developer to finalise its plans for use of adjacent land.
3. In recent weeks officers have also been made aware that an Ilminster Community group are actively looking to acquire land to develop a new woodland area in Ilminster. This is potentially for the area identified as I2 on Appendix 12A.
4. Under the Localism Act 2011 Communities were given the right to request for assets to be placed on the Assets of Community Value Register that is maintained by their Principal Authorities. The Assets of Community Value Legislation 2012 covers all of the necessary legislation that allows for assets to be registered.
5. During conversations with the clerk, Cllr Osborne raised the prospect of both areas of land being able to be listed as Assets of Community Value. This would enable the group to then be given a period of time in which to raise funding to purchase the land and thereby preserve it for use within the community.

6. Cllr Osborne has formally requested that the council consider registering the land be registered to protect it as a community asset and the first stage is for this committee to consider this proposal.

7. More information can be found by clicking on the following link.

[Community right to bid | South Somerset District Council](#)

8. By having land listed as an Asset of Community Value it effectively gives the community (including the Town Council) an opportunity to bid for the asset should it ever be offered up for sale.

9. As already mentioned when a listed asset comes to be sold, a moratorium on the sale (of up to six months) may be invoked, providing local community groups with a better chance to raise finance, develop a business case and to make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.

10. Members are asked to **Recommend to Full Council** that the land identified as areas I1 and I2 be put forward for registration as Community assets.

**Mark Tredwin**  
**Town Clerk**  
**April 2023**