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## **Horndean Parish Council Open Spaces Disposal Policy**

Horndean Parish Council owns and manages various open spaces to ensure they remain open to everyone for their recreation and enjoyment in perpetuity and to give local people, through their elected representatives, the power to control what happens on this land. The council thereby accepts that it has the responsibility for this land and the cost associated with maintaining it - where appropriate and affordable improving it, in order to enhance the public's enjoyment of the sites.

It follows that the Parish Council holds this land in perpetuity for the community and therefore it is the Council's policy that it will not sell land unless a clear case has been presented to the Council that it is overwhelmingly in the interests of Parish residents to do so. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that this policy means that requests to sell HPC land in order, for instance, to increase the curtilage of an adjoining property, will not be considered by the Council and also that a potential reduction in maintenance costs to the Council will not, of itself, demonstrate that the public interest would be served by disposal.

Likewise, any attempt to enclose HPC owned land by adjacent landowners or others will be resisted in order that the Council may fulfil its obligation to maintain the land it has for the benefit of the general public in perpetuity.