

# BARLBY AND OSGODBY TOWN COUNCIL

## ACTIVITIES ON PUBLIC OPEN SPACE POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This statement explains the Town Council's position on activities (including ball games) on Council owned or managed land and offer advice as to how any issues may be addressed.

### 2. PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Most recreational activities carried out on Public Open Space (POS), including ball games, are not antisocial behaviour and so are not, in themselves, a nuisance although the behaviour of persons on the POS may be. Designated Public Open Spaces are there for the enjoyment of all and play is an important part of child development.

The playing of ball games is not against local bylaws and 'No Ball Games' signs are only advisory as they cannot be enforced. The Council has, in the past, installed signs as a result of adults abusing Open Space but has now decided NOT to install any further signs.

### 3. ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS

#### Players and Parents

- Open spaces are for everyone.
- Older children could avoid conflict by playing outside their own house, using a soft ball or go to a local park.
- Keep noise down, don't use offensive language
- Don't trespass, ask before retrieving a ball
- Parents – know where your children are playing, be prepared to talk to your neighbours and be prepared to compromise

#### Residents

- Open spaces are for everyone
- Playing ball games is not antisocial behaviour, children should be able to play in their neighbourhood and parents may wish to keep an eye on their children
- No Ball Games signs are a request and are not a byelaw (unless stated)
- It is not illegal to play football on a grassed area unless it is adopted highway
- Talk to your neighbours and be prepared to compromise

### 4. ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN

Landowners have the right to dictate what activities can take place on their property and the Council does all within its limited powers to prevent anti social activities. In extreme cases this may entail temporary closure of a facility. A permanent closure or significant alleviation measures would not be considered without consulting local residents. The Council may respond to complaints from individuals by initiating a neighbourhood survey to determine local views and this may affect any action considered appropriate.

Any activity that leads to property damage should be reported to the Police.

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The Town Council is not a relevant body for the purposes of criminal proceedings, injunctions, dispersal or public space protection orders. Community triggers, community remedies and anti social behaviour case reviews are outside the powers that the Town Council holds.