

Hook Parish Council
Policy on Disposal of Open Space/Amenity Land
within the Boundary of the Parish of Hook

Land Owned By Hook Parish Council

1. Hook Parish Council will refuse applications to enclose, dispose of or develop open space unless there are exceptional circumstances or where such disposal is deemed to be in the public interest.
2. The Clerk is authorised to advise anyone making enquiries or applications to purchase, enclose or lease Parish Council land that this is the policy of the Parish Council.
3. The Clerk will bring any enquiries which may be considered 'exceptional circumstances' to the attention of the Parish Council.

Non Parish Council Land

4. Applications for sale, enclosure or effective disposal of land within Hook, not owned by the Parish Council will be considered as part of the normal activity of the Planning Committee.
5. It is the policy of the Planning Committee and Parish Council that allowing this type of application would set an undesirable precedent for further applications to develop amenity space and such development would be detrimental to amenity of the residents of Hook.
6. The Chairman of the Planning Committee has delegated powers to object to such disposal, unless there were exceptional circumstances.

This policy is in accordance with the Local Plan that specifically prohibits this form of development unless certain criteria are met.

Urb 22 of the Local Plan 1996-2006 states:

'In the interests of local amenity, the change of use of small areas of open space within housing estates and in other locations in the main settlements will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the parcel of land is of minimum benefit in terms of its impact on local amenity and recreation.

Areas of informal open space within housing developments serve a valuable function both in softening the impact of buildings and providing areas for informal recreation and children's play. The inclusion of these areas into private gardens will therefore normally be resisted'.