

SAVE OUR BATH GROUNDS CAMPAIGN



We still await the submission of the planning application by the developer which they originally said would be submitted at the end of July 2018. The pressure put on the developer by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds petition

and Ashby Town Councils motion at the beginning of September 2018,

'to enter into a dialogue with Oakland's Hotels to acquire the freehold of the Bath grounds in its entirety, and to make it clear to the land owner that the TC will not surrender the lease to the bath grounds either fully or partially now or in the future, and also on expiry of the current lease the TC will pursue a renewal of the lease for a similar length of time as the current lease provides.'

As you may be aware the Town Council announced on 16th April that they had been successful in securing an agreement with Oakland's Hotels Ltd, in principle, for the proposed purchase of the Bath Grounds in the sum of £620k

We are pleased that the Town Council have taken this positive step to secure the freehold of the Bath Grounds. However, there are a number of points we wanted to get across to our members and the public.

- There are no guarantees that Oakland's Hotels will refurbish the Royal Hotel as a Hotel
- The 'negotiated' figure of £620K is probably in the region of three times the value of the land without planning permission and of course this will have to be paid back by the Towns Council Tax payers over the next 50 years.
- As a result of this Agreement, when the Planning Application is submitted by Oakland Hotels the Town Council will not be able to respond to the consultation on the development proposals and this may also apply to associated District Councillor's. We would suggest that this is a situation which the residents of Ashby should be aware of.
- We feel the Town Council needed to 'negotiate' the purchase of the Bath Grounds with Oakland Hotels without involving planning permissions linked to the Royal Hotel or development either side.

We are expecting an application to be submitted to the District Planning Department in the next few weeks. We will of course keep all members up to date on any future developments.

Motion to rescind the application to renew the bath grounds as an asset of community value is withdrawn

An emergency motion submitted to the Planning Committee at the Town Council on 29th April to rescind their application to renew registration of the Bath Grounds as an Asset of Community Value was withdrawn before it could be debated. Thanks to everyone who came along to sit in the public gallery to ensure that our voices were heard.

We were able to put our statement forward as follows;

- We note that the Committee are to discuss a motion which if approved will result in the Bath Grounds losing its status as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Given the importance of the protection offered to the Bath Grounds by the ACV status, we would ask the Committee to vote down this motion.
- If the Bath Grounds remain as an ACV, we do not feel that the moratorium periods which would be triggered when the owner notifies the Local Authority of his intention to sell would create a problem for the Town Council or the developer in finalising their deal, indeed it would probably be beneficial.
- We are concerned about the possible consequences should the ACV registration lapse and the Town Councils deal falls through for whatever reason. We would therefore ask the Committee to note that should it approve the motion and effectively rescind the ACV status of the Bath Grounds, the FOABG will consider the possibility of applying for registration of the area.

Ivanhoe Spa Mosaic

Work has been completed on the repairs to the Ivanhoe Mosaic and new framing has been commissioned by the friends – We anticipate that the mosaic will be re-installed on the Bath Grounds over the next few weeks.

ASB on the Bath Grounds

A number of incidences of motorbikes driving on the Bath grounds have been reported to the police using their 101 number. This vigilance and reporting of type, registration and colour of the vehicle has led to



Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds



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the registered keeper of one of the motorbikes seen riding across the Bath Grounds, including the cricket square, on the evening of Wednesday 24th April being issued with a Section 59 Warning under the Police Reform Act 2002.

It highlights the good work of the local community in reporting such incidents to the police on 101 and ensuring that these types of ASB are not tolerated.

Maintenance

Footpath Potholes Update

The Friends have been working with the Town Council, who are now responsible for the maintenance of the Heritage footpath, to resolve the pot holes that have appeared between the bowling club and the Prior Park entrance. Independent advisors have been consulted and actions have now been agreed to repair the damage to the path on both a temporary and long-term basis and for the Town Council to have an annual strategy for path maintenance.

Wildlife walk

Flowerbed

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