

Tel: 01189427906

R. Smith  
48, Gratwicke Road.

16th March, 2005

Re: Blagrove Recreation Ground

In 1894 J.H. Blagrove gave a piece of land to the Church Wardens and Overseers of Tilehurst with the instructions that it should be:-

"An Open Public Playground for children and youths of the Parish under the age of 14. That no building should be built on it other than a cricket or football pavillion of ornamental design, and no malt or spirituous liquours should be kept or sold on the land, and the trustees should maintain the fences".

Trust transferred to the Parish Council in 1898.  
Taken over by Reading Council in 1913.

Violations of the trust, building an Air Raid Shelter. Building of the Nursery School. Removal of the railings. The removal of the pavillion, and toilets. The extending of Gratwicke Road to join Corwen Road, leaving a part of the land segregated from the main areas by Gratwicke Road. The laying of asphalt paths.

Having lived in Gratwicke Road from the early part of 1930, when I was 3 years old, I can confirm that the Recreation ground has been in regular use for the entire time. At various stages of my life I have been a regular user.

There was never any necessity to provide paths across the ground, as there has always been an alley way on the east side of the ground giving access between Recreation Road and Gratwicke Road.

The proposed giving of a piece of land of equivalent area in Downing Road to that which is taken from the Recreation site is not in accordance with the trust.

This is not an argument of loss of open space in Tilehurst. The trust states "an open public space" for young children". Surely this excludes it being bisected by the major road of the area, and the distance between the two areas of land.

Hoping this shows that there is some public concern

in the administration of the trust.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Smith".

R. Smith

In 1894 J. H. Blay gave a piece of land to the Church Warden and Overseers of Teckworth with the restrictions that it should be:-

"An open public play ground for children and youths of the parish under the age of 16.

That no building should be built other than a cricket or football pavillion of ornametal design and no malt or spirituous liquours should be kept or sold on the land, and the trustees should maintain the fences.

Transferred to the parish Council  
1898 then to Reading Council in  
1913.

The park opened in 1896

Ron Smith