

# TILEHURST POOR'S LANDS CHARITY

Founded 1811

Incorporating Wheat's Charity (Founded 1731)

Regd Charity 204048

Chairman of the Trustees: The Revd C. M. P. Jones, Tilehurst Rectory, Routh Lane, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 4JY. Tel (0734) 427331  
Clerk to the Trustees: Mr A. G. Illsley, 41 Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6HA. Tel (0734) 415385

Please address correspondence to the Chairman/Clerk/undersigned.

December 2nd. 1991

Dear Mrs. Haynes,

Thank you for your letter of November 28th. last regarding the Victoria Road Recreation Ground. I will attempt again to clarify the situation for your Residents Association.

1. I should firstly, make it quite clear, that whatever some people have said about the status of the Recreation Ground, it does not, and has never, belonged to the people of Tilehurst. The deeds that I have state quite clearly that the land was given, under an Act of Parliament of George III to Mr. John Blagrove, Lord of the Manor, and to the Rector, Churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Tilehurst, as trustees for the poor. From the rent that was gained for this land, the Trustees were to distribute coal through the winter to all the poor parishioners renting under £10 per annum. This makes it clear that the land does not belong to the people of Tilehurst, but to the Charity called 'Poor's Land', and the Trustees have to distribute as much income as possible to the poor in Tilehurst today.

2. I also have to make it quite clear that the Trustees are bound to raise as much money as possible from the land which they hold, so that this work can continue today, when sadly, it is in great demand. Indeed, the Trustees can use the Recreation Ground for whatever purpose they consider suitable, subject to the agreement of the Charity Commissioners, and whatever clauses may exist in the Trust deeds.

3. Bearing the two above points in mind, we are not, therefore prepared to let anyone sit on the committee, as an observer, since, quite clearly, it is a matter for the Trustees alone, and no one else. We would also like to point out that 6 out of the 7 Trustees are residents of Tilehurst, and are just as interested in the future of Tilehurst, as the residents of Armour Road.

4. Finally, I would also point out to you that if someone from your Association had bothered to contact me, or indeed, any of the Trustees, earlier in the proceedings, there would have been none of the misunderstandings that have subsequently arisen.

Yours sincerely,



Rector of Tilehurst, and Chairman of the Trustees

Mrs. E. Haynes,  
32, Armour Road,  
Tilehurst,  
Reading, RG3 6HN