

The Preston Trust Oppose Community Facilities in Temple Dinsley

The Preston Trust Position updated 21 December 2023 –

The Preston Trust maintained a neutral position on the proposed facilities on Altham's field. However, one of The Trust's primary objectives, and its original *raison d'être*, is to protect Preston and its environs from poor development and hold planners to the highest possible standards.

The recent Parish Council survey specifically addressed the use of Altham's field. In summary, the results from 321 votes indicated that 206 residents (64%) were against any development on Altham's field whilst only 78 (24%) were in favour of some facility.

Subsequent feedback to the Preston Trust committee suggests that many residents voting against the development had hoped that the survey would bring the community facilities project to an end.

At the recent Parish Council meeting, the Community Facilities Working Group chair proposed developing the facilities on the disused Tennis Courts, near the Dower House, in the grounds of Temple Dinsley (PHC) on Hitchin Road.

The Trust committee is concerned that the new proposed site presents similar risks and issues. However, instead of threatening the greenbelt it is a Grade II* listed park in a conservation area opposite another conservation area and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The proposed vehicular access also has associated risk, seeming to be even more problematic than that for Altham's Field.

The working group has stated they are collaborating with the new owners of Temple Dinsley and NHDC. This would appear, given that the proposed shop/café would appeal to wealthier customers, to be of potential benefit to the owner to enhance the value of the dwellings they are developing. The good intentions of the current owner can provide no guarantee regarding what future owners would do if the park and conservation area are compromised. It would also appear to be to NHDC's benefit to allow additional development to avoid further censure for failing to meet their housing targets.

The Preston Trust is therefore seeking independent advice on the planning issues.

If you have any questions or would like to share your views please contact admin@theprestontrust.org.uk or call 07736 348655.

The Preston Trust committee – Adrian, Jax, Liz, Rae, Vicky and Wal