

Feedback Form

20% of the total Church Road development site is to be dedicated for use as a Public Open Space in perpetuity. It is expected to be owned and maintained by Steep Parish Council. Previous discussions, especially around the time of the Steep Parish Plan, have generated a number of suggestions, these included:

- simple grassed area without any furniture
- footpath and benches
- children's play area (possibly with swings and slides)
- covered shelter/meeting point
- re-siting of the Steep War Memorial in a suitably respectful location
- visitor centre/information board
- pond with seating
- meeting room for the various clubs
- coffee shop

Please tell us whether any of these appeal to you or if you have better ideas:

When you have completed this form please either post it to Steep PC Consultation, 11 Church Road, Steep, GU32 2DW, email it to consultation@steep-pc.gov.uk, drop it into the box in the Village Hall, or hand it to the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor by **Monday 14 September**.

20% OPEN SPACE Parish Council Consultation



Seeking your ideas for the Church Road Public Open Space

Last year, the South Downs National Park Authority published its new local plan which allocated the site next to the Village Hall in Church Road for development. The land is owned by two separate charities, Steep In Need (SIN) and Steep War Memorial Village Club (SWMVC).

The Parish Council has to date held two public meetings to provide the community with an update on the status of the land and to answer your questions. We want to encourage the widest possible consultation about this important site and understand that both SIN and SWMVC, expect to launch their consultation programme on the wider scheme in late September/ early October.

In the meantime, the Parish Council is keen to seek village input on the Public Open Space part of the development, which the South Downs National Park Authority specified should be one-fifth of the total site area and directly accessible from the village hall and car park.

We expect that ownership of the Public Open Space will be transferred to Steep Parish Council, so we are inviting your thoughts on how we can best use this opportunity. We would ask you to complete the attached feedback form and return it to us **by Monday 14 September**.

What do we know about the Public Open Space?

How big is it?

At 20% of the total site, the Public Open Space will amount to nearly 15,000 square feet (1,350 square meters) – that's equivalent to five full-size tennis courts. The SWMVC currently owns around 15% of the total site, so with the new space amounting to 20%, the community will be gaining an additional 5%. In addition, the land will be landscaped and accessible to use which it isn't at the moment.

Where will the site be located?

It must be directly accessible from the village hall and car park, as specified by the South Downs National Park Local Plan. There aren't any plans for the layout of the development yet, however it will be helpful to know now what you would like to see the Public Open Space used for.

Who will own and maintain the space?

The ownership of the Public Open Space is expected to transfer to Steep Parish Council. The Council will ensure that the space is kept in perpetuity for community benefit and will maintain it (and, of course, bear the costs of maintenance). This is almost exactly the same as the arrangements for Steep Common – opposite the church. The only difference is that the Common is formally designated as a Village Green.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet, we hope you found it useful. We really do want your input on this important site in the village so please complete the consultation form on the back of this leaflet and either post it to Steep PC Consultation, 11 Church Road, Steep, GU32 2DW, email it to consultation@steep-pc.gov.uk, drop it into the box in the Village Hall, or hand it to the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor **by Monday 14 September**.
- The Council will analyse your ideas and produce a summary to share with everyone in the next couple of months. We would normally hold a public meeting to talk about this, but current restrictions make it impossible. We will continue to explore alternative methods of community engagement.
- We will, of course, continue to use the Parish Newsletter, noticeboards, and Parish Council website to keep you informed.
- Your thoughts about the Public Open Space will also be shared with SIN and SWMVC as we hope it will be influential in their thinking about the layout of the development.
- We expect that the first consultation by SIN and SWMVC about the development will begin soon they will keep you informed about these consultations.

Extract from the South Downs Local Plan

Policy SD89: Land South of Church Road, Steep (see pgs 253-254)



Allocation Policy SD89: Land South of Church Road, Steep

1. Land South of Church Road, Steep is allocated for the development of between 8 and 12 residential dwellings (Class C3 Use). Planning permission will not be granted for any other uses. Detailed proposals that meet the following site specific development requirements will be permitted:
 - a) Site boundaries sympathetic to the local landscape;
 - b) To provide all necessary vehicular parking on-site to avoid additional on street parking in local roads;
 - c) The site layout must not include opportunities for future vehicular access into adjacent fields;
 - d) Retention and protection of existing mature trees;
 - e) The location of housing and access roads to have regard to localised areas of potential surface water flood risk; and
 - f) A proportion of the site should be provided as public open space directly accessible from the village hall and car park.
2. In order for the development to have an overall positive impact on the ability of the natural environment to contribute to ecosystem services, development proposals must address the following:
 - a) Minimise hard surfaced areas on site; and
 - b) New planting should be suitable for pollinating species.